

Maghreb leaders gather in Tunis

TUNIS (AP) — Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan II of Morocco joined the leaders of Tunisia and Libya Sunday to set the seal on their Arab Maghrib Union and start work on economic integration. President Bendjedid said the Arab Maghrib Union, the fifth member of the union, is not coming to the Tunis summit because he is still recovering from the attack on his plane. The union, with more than 40 million people and a combined gross national product of over \$200 billion a year, was set up in November last February to meet the challenges of a single European market. The Tunis summit is the first since the five leaders signed the Maghrib Union treaty. Tunisia President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who spoke over the radio from his residence in Tunis, said he is an ardent supporter of the union. He said the union will be a source of economic growth and development. He said he is a Maghrib Union cardholder. "Maghrib Union is to be built on the five countries can complement each other, to develop and balance our trade and to have a united economic front towards foreign partners," he said. The Algerian news agency APN.

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية غير منحازة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

State of siege in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Some Haitian opposition leaders went into hiding Sunday after dozens of anti-government activists were rounded up in a military crackdown unleashed with the declaration of a 30-day state of siege. The government of Lieutenant General Prosper Avril imposed emergency measures and suspended parts of the constitution Saturday night after a colonel and his family were shot to death by attackers carrying machine guns. At least one major opposition figure, Hubert Derocery, head of the rightist Mobilization for National Development Party, was reported by privately run Radio Metropole to have been deported to Miami. Opposition leaders said others had been ordered expelled as well. In Washington, State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said the United States deplored the action taken by Haiti. U.S. officials also said privately that developments of the last 24 hours meant Washington would probably suspend discussions about restoring foreign aid to Haiti halted after a crackdown by a previous government in 1987.

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State of Palestine to issue certificate of origin for produce

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has agreed to a request by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to facilitate the export of agricultural products from the occupied territories through the Kingdom but with a certificate of origin endorsed by the State of Palestine.

According to the minister of agriculture, Sulaiman Arabiyat, the Palestine embassy in Jordan would sign a letter of origin for produce from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip before they are shipped outside the Kingdom.

"We received a decision through the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), presented by the State of Palestine, asking us to

facilitate the export of West Bank produce and we welcome this decision," Arabiyat said in an interview with the Jordan Times. He added that the essence of the move was that "the State of Palestine asked that it becomes the side which determines what products should be exported and that its representatives in Jordan and Egypt issues the certificate of origin."

The minister said the ministry had not changed its policies on the marketing of produce from the occupied territories in or through Jordan but that "we have provided a better atmosphere of transaction."

"Psychology is very important," he added. He appealed to Palestinian farmers in the occupied territories to

boycott Israeli agricultural products and ensure a higher level of self-dependence. He stressed that Jordan would continue to try and solve their problems. But he said information on problems should be conveyed through proper channels.

"We want them to continue to relate their problems to us as soon as they happen and continue to leave the channels of cooperation open between us," the minister said.

He also called upon Palestinian farmers to coordinate their farming and production strategies with those of their counterparts in Jordan and "work with a common goal."

He blamed Israel's oppressive

(Continued on page 3)

Israel debates outcome of U.S. contacts

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Differences between Israel and the United States over proposed talks with Palestinians remain unresolved after Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit to Washington last week, an Israeli minister said Sunday.

"Disagreement exists about two or three issues — the agenda of the meeting, who announces the Palestinian delegation and the composition of the delegation," Communications Minister Gad Yacobi told Reuters. Rabin told Israel's cabinet Sunday that the United States proposed creating a "name bank" in an effort to break the deadlock.

However, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir rejected U.S. suggestions that Palestinians expelled from the occupied lands or Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem be included in a Palestinian negotiating team.

Leaders of the Palestinian uprising said in a new leaflet they would not accept Shamir's attempt to exclude the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) or give it an "invisible role" in negotiations.

After meeting U.S. officials in Washington last week, Rabin briefed the cabinet in his weekly session on two U.S. suggestions.

One was for the United States to complete a "name bank" of potential Palestinian negotiators nominated by Israel, Egypt and the Palestinians. Rabin said Eitan Haber said. Names would be withdrawn from the bank until agreement was reached on a 10-member delegation.

The second idea would be for the United States to postpone discussion of specific names and mediate among the parties to agree on general criteria for prospective Palestinian negotiators, said an official who demanded anonymity.

Israel Radio said Rabin had made little headway in Washington towards resolving the problem. Rabin reportedly discussed the U.S. ideas with Shamir before the cabinet session. Asked about the meeting, Shamir's spokesman Yossi Alameir declined comment saying:

"The Americans justifiably are angry (about all the leaks about contacts), and we will not be a party to it."

Yacobi, of the Labour Party, indirectly criticised Israel's arrest Friday of Faisal Al Hussein, regarded as the leading nationalist among the 1.7 million Palestinians of the occupied territories.

"Israel should not prevent the participation of Palestinians living in the territories with authority and status among Palestinians," Yacobi said.

Palestinian activist found murdered

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian activist kidnapped in the occupied West Bank last week was found hacked to death Sunday. Palestinian sources said 22-year-old Adel Mohammad Kaduha was dragged from his father's home in the village of Shweikh on Jan. 14 by a band of masked men.

His body, a mass of knife and axe wounds, was found on the outskirts of nearby Tulkarim town, they said.

"He has been declared a martyr and we hold the Israelis and their stooges responsible," a source close to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said.

A military spokesman confirmed the killing and said the army and police were investi-

gating. "He was a former student activist, jailed without trial for six months last year for his work in the intifada," the Palestinian source said.

In the West Bank town of Al Bireh, a petrol bomb was thrown at a bus carrying Jewish settlers, slightly injuring a woman passenger, military sources said.

Eyewitnesses said troops sealed off the area and rounded up dozens of Arab residents for interrogation.

Dheisheh Palestinian refugee camp was placed under curfew after masked youths tore down a section of a fence erected by Israeli troops to stop residents stoning Israeli traffic on the nearby Hebron-Bethlehem road.

On Sunday, Israeli troops rounded up more than 100 Arabs

in the West Bank amid an outcry over the arrest of a leading Palestinian nationalist.

Palestinians from across the political spectrum assailed Israel for arresting Faisal Al Hussein. In Tunis, the Arab League joined international criticism of the arrest of Hussein.

It issued a statement appealing to permanent U.N. Security Council members "not to content themselves with stigmatising Israeli practices (but) to translate condemnation into a determination to settle definitely the Israeli-Palestinian problem."

It said inquiries and recommendations were not sufficient and "it is the duty of the international community to rapidly put an end to these violations."

In the West Bank, troops arrested more than 100 Palesti-

Eyskens due here Wednesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens will begin an official three-day visit to Jordan Wednesday, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

It said the minister would discuss bilateral ties and international issues of mutual concern with Jordanian officials.

Petra gave no further details but said Eyskens' visit was in response to an invitation by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

Georgian soldiers join militants Azeri cadets battle soldiers in Baku

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Azeri military cadets fired on Soviet troops patrolling their capital Sunday, and tens of thousands of people gathered to mourn victims of a bloody crackdown on their way against ethnic Armenians.

The cadets, joined by troops from the neighbouring Caucasus Republic of Georgia, battled sporadically throughout the day with Soviet soldiers at Baku's garrison and military academy, Arif Yunusov of the Azerbaijan Social Democratic Group reported.

The downtown garrison was the scene of some of the fiercest fighting when Soviet troops

stormed into the capital early Saturday and broke through barricades erected by militants.

Fighting has continued off and on since then. On Saturday afternoon, in the first report of military forces dividing along ethnic lines, a local activist said 120 Azeri military cadets fought a pitched battle with the army soldiers sent in to restore order.

The republic's parliament was in emergency session to discuss the crackdown by troops.

A spokesman at the Azerbaijan parliament said reports by telephone that the emergency session would discuss the situation in Azerbaijan following the

imposition of the state of emergency.

He said sporadic shooting could still be heard in the city. At least 62 people have died in clashes between residents and troops in Baku, according to official figures.

Unofficial figures by nationalist groups put the death toll at up to 500. "We have been checking morgues and talking to people," said a spokesman for the nationalist Popular Front. "The morgues are all full."

Soviet media said shooting continued "throughout the night" and morning but Yavuz Dzhaladov,

(Continued on page 3)

Assad, Hrawi plan strategy

DAMASCUS (R) — The presidents of Lebanon and Syria Sunday discussed using force to remove ousted army chief General Michel Aoun from his east Beirut stronghold, diplomats said.

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, struggling to extend his authority over his divided country, was making his first foreign visit since his election in November following the assassination of his predecessor Rene Mnawad.

Aoun, backed by some 15,000 mainly Christian troops, has refused to accept Hrawi's authority in spite of economic and bureaucratic sanctions, calling the president a Syrian puppet.

The Christian enclave he controls is ringed by thousands of Syrian and Lebanese troops.

Shortly after Hrawi arrived he and President Hafez Al Assad met behind closed doors. They also conferred with Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss and Parliament Speaker Hussein Husseini, and Syrian Vice-President Abdul Hakim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharras.

Diplomats and sources close to the meeting said the two leaders discussed how the Lebanese government could assert its authority over all Lebanon using its own forces.

"Extending the authority would start with west Beirut as a first stage after which authority would be extended to all other Lebanese territories," one source said.

Last month Hrawi threatened to use force to break Aoun but decided to delay to give international mediation another chance.

Syria's official newspapers promised the Lebanese president all necessary help to remove Aoun.

"Syria is today more determined than at any time before to extend every possible help to Lebanese legitimacy to achieve what is supposed to be done," said Al Bashir, organ of the ruling Baath Party.

"The Lebanese brothers know well that Syria, the nearest to Lebanon, would be fully satisfied if it was asked to extend help, any help, to achieve the reconciliation

process."

Circumstances were now appropriate, it said, for the removal of Aoun.

Al Bashir urged a united Arab stand to stop Aoun's defiance in line with a pact to end Lebanon's 14-year civil war agreed by Lebanese members of parliament in Saudi Arabia last October.

Aoun rejects the pact because it did not insist on the immediate withdrawal from Lebanon of Syrian troops which currently number 40,000.

Diplomats said Hrawi was expected to visit several Arab countries to push for a speedy solution, including Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco whose heads of state form a peace committee charged by the Arab League with ending Lebanon's conflict.

Lebanese political sources said Hrawi wanted to coordinate closely with Assad before talks with Arab leaders.

"He wants to rally strong Arab support in his campaign to rid Lebanon of Aoun," one Lebanese political source told Reuters.

Political parties await legal status

By Rana Sabbah
Reuters

AMMAN — Encouraged by a glow of democracy in Jordan, new political parties are being formed or emerging from years of suppression, but none have yet won legal recognition.

His Majesty King Hussein banned political organisations in 1957, but allowed known party members to run in November's general parliamentary election, the first in 22 years.

"There is no real democracy without political parties," Lower House Speaker Saleman Arar told Reuters.

"You have a democratic state when the majority has the right to rule and the minority to oppose," said Deputy Hussein Majalli, a pan-Arab nationalist. "But when the state is ruled by a single individual, group or elite, it becomes a dictatorship."

At least 16 parties, some established, some in the process of formation, are mulling over plans to apply for legal status.

But progress towards a multi-party system hangs on the King's promise of a national charter to guide political life.

The idea is for a broad-based royal commission to draw up a national creed to which all would-be political parties would subscribe.

A government source said the royal commission, due to be named this month, would include members of Parliament. The Lower House demanded the right to participate in writing the national charter in return for its approval of the concept.

King Hussein's declaration after the November election that the charter would be submitted to a popular plebiscite kindled fears among some deputies that the proposed document may bypass the elected Parliament or the Constitution.

The King sought to allay such fears last week by saying his aim was the same as in 1956 when he let Saleman Nabulsi form a leftist Nasserite coalition government after Nabulsi's National Socialist Party

won a parliamentary election.

In 1957 the King dissolved the Nabulsi government and banned parties.

"We are determined to make (democracy) a success this time," King Hussein told the Jordan Times last week.

The King said he wanted to share power with his people.

"I personally have no intention to go back to the old way or any other way. I personally shouldered the responsibility for a long time. It is time for the Jordanians to share the responsibilities with and after me," he said.

The electoral success of the Muslim Brotherhood, which won more than a quarter of the seats in the Lower House, may have spurred moves towards allowing political pluralism.

Seen as a useful bulwark against radicals in the turbulent 1950s and 1960s, the Brotherhood escaped the ban on political parties. But it emerged in the election as a well-organized party with a simple, powerful slogan, "Islam is the solution."

Political parties may have to wait for the charter and the subsequent amendment of legislation before they win official recognition and none has yet applied to the Interior Ministry.

But politicians from right and left are getting ready.

Arar wants the conservative Arab Constitutional Party, which he founded in 1982, to be legalised. "We don't believe in operation secretly," he said.

Yacoub Zayadin, secretary-general of the Jordan Communist Party, set up in 1951, hopes the government will grant it legal status for the first time.

"We are organising our ranks in anticipation of being able to work publicly and allowed to print our party newspaper," said Zayadin, who has spent 12 years in prison for his activities.

"The phenomenon of having many parties is very healthy," said Tayseer Al Zabir, a leader of the Marxist-Leninist Jordan Democratic People's Party, founded in July.

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Kuwaiti leader calls for dialogue instead of pressure

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The Emir of Kuwait has issued an implicit call for an end to pro-democracy rallies, saying cooperation would achieve more than confrontation.

"We must remember that we are members of one small house that cannot bear divisions and discord... we live in times which require wisdom more than zeal and cooperation more than confrontation, conciliation more than threats," Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah said in a televised speech Saturday night.

It was his first public comment on the pro-democracy movement which has been holding weekly rallies since early last month to press for the return of parliament, dissolved in 1986 at the height of the Iran-Iraq war.

Thousands of activists have attended the rallies despite a government order declaring them illegal and the presence of large numbers of security forces. The next rally is due to be held Monday.

"Even if... the practice of

some facets of parliamentary life required it to be halted for a while for contemplation and review, consultation never stopped, nor did popular participation in one way or another end," the Emir said.

"However, the method that is being used not to air opinions will not bring us to the goal we all are aiming toward."

In dissolving parliament four years ago, the Emir said it was being used to sow racial tension between Kuwait's different ethnic groups.

"We deeply believe in the value of freedom, and this is a belief reflected in Kuwaiti behaviour and is affirmed in people's daily dealing with one another and in their relations with those among them in authority," the Emir said Saturday.

He said there could be no doubt of the government's belief in popular participation, saying it was a principle mandated by religion.

"The door of dialogue is open. The channels of communication

welcome opinions," the Emir said, adding that Kuwaitis were living in rapidly changing times.

"We are approaching the beginning of a new century. The responsibility of the future is as important as the responsibilities of the past and present," he said.

"The Emir gave no indication that parliament might resume soon, nor did he refer to a promised announcement on press censorship."

The prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, told a news conference in Cairo last week the government was studying the lifting of censorship. He said an announcement would be made within days.

Local journalists say the government has eased curbs on newspapers to allow controlled discussion of the political future.

They said discussion of parliament had been virtually banned since it was dissolved in 1986 and the government placed censors in newspaper offices.

But in the last few days censors have begun allowing references

to the issue and Saturday it was raised in front page editorial in three of five Arabic dailies.

The government so far prevented three rallies at diwanas, or open-house nighttime gatherings hosted by deputies of the dissolved assembly.

The Kuwaiti parliament, the only elected assembly among the Arab states of the Gulf, with the exception of a two-year experiment in Bahrain in 1973.

It was dissolved in 1976 for antagonism between parliament and government but revived in 1980.

The Emir called for the consolidation of public unity, noting that the dangers which prompted the dissolution of parliament in 1986 were not over.

"The evidence of our love to Kuwait is to safeguard its unity... we are the sons of a small country which cannot afford secession and feuding," he said.

"We are in need of wisdom rather than precipitate action, cooperation rather than confrontation and shaking hands



Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah rather than defiance," he said. "Swimming in words is not like swimming in waves. Kuwait's ship is not ashore but still amidst waves searching for the light of future."

A Kuwait radio commentary last week hinted that future representation might be based on an appointed or elected Shura (consultative council) which has been prescribed by Islamic teachings as a model for ruling and is in force in Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Lebanese journalists call strike

BEIRUT (AP) — The Press Association Sunday called for a one-day media strike to show solidarity with three publications that Michel Aoun shut down for defying his censorship.

The association, an umbrella group for the Publishers Syndicate and the Reporters Syndicate, said it would send memorandums to the United Nations and the Arab League advising them of the association's moves to counter Aoun's measures.

"All work should stop at all news organisations throughout Lebanon on Tuesday," said a statement issued by the association.

The strike apparently referred to only the local print media.

The statement also called for a sit-in at the association's headquarters in west Beirut's Raouche

neighbourhood Wednesday.

Aoun has shut down Al Diyar and Al Bayrak newspapers along with the Akhbar Al Yom newspaper for a week. All are published in the Christian enclave.

His six-day-old directive bans the media from referring to Elias Hrawi as president of Lebanon or Salim Al Hoss as its prime minister. Hoss was appointed by Hrawi last November after the remnants of Lebanon's parliament elected him president under an Arab League-sponsored peace plan.

Hrawi, recognised by other nations as Lebanon's legitimate president, dismissed Aoun as prime minister and army commander, but the defiant general held out in the Christian enclave, refusing to hand over the presidential palace to Hrawi.

The country's leading newspaper, Al Nahar, based in west Beirut, stopped publishing in an apparent effort to avoid confronting the maverick general.

The conservative daily Al Anwar, which operates in Christian east Beirut, has been publishing two editions since Friday — one for the Christian enclave that follows the edict and the other for the rest of the country.

The Christian radio stations — Voice of Lebanon of the Falange Party and Voice of Free Lebanon of the Lebanese Forces militia, maintained a newscast strike for the sixth straight day to protest Aoun's measures.

The Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation, the Lebanese Forces' television station, also has refrained from broadcasting news since Tuesday.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Rights investigator arrives in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — A United Nations human rights investigator previously barred from Iran began an eight-day visit Sunday to probe reports of torture and mass executions. Salvadoran law professor Reynaldo Galdino Pohl "will be informed of the operation of the judicial system" and hold talks with officials on human rights, the Iranian news agency IRNA said. The U.N. Human Rights Commission has criticised Iran every year since 1982 but Tehran had previously refused to let Pohl visit following his appointment in 1984. He will report on Iran to the commission's annual six-week meeting in Geneva starting Jan. 29. On the basis of interviews outside the country, Pohl has investigated abuses ranging from torture to mass executions.

Djibouti train crash kills 13

DJIBOUTI (R) — A passenger train and a goods train collided head on near the Ethiopian border, killing 13 people and injuring 50, officials said Sunday. Interior Ministry officials said Saturday's crash at Gallely on the Djibouti-Addis Ababa railway was caused by a point switching error. The passenger train, carrying up to 600 passengers, was travelling from Djibouti towards Ethiopia on the single track line. Two of the coaches overturned in the crash. French military helicopters stationed in Djibouti ferried the most seriously injured to hospital.

UAE schoolchildren cry foul

ABU DHABI (R) — Arab schoolchildren are crying foul over their end-of-year examinations because they clash with the televised finals of the soccer World Cup in Italy. The United Arab Emirates has qualified for the June finals for the first time and the teenagers were anxious to see how their local heroes performed. "Can they (the examinations) be conducted later so we will have a chance to watch the finals," a student asked UAE acting Education Minister Ahmad Al Tayer at a meeting called to lobby support for their cause. But Tayer kicked their hopes firmly into touch. "There are no plans to postpone the examinations for the world soccer finals... such events should not divert your attention from education," he said.

Students, police clash in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Students at Tunis University clashed with police Saturday, causing the suspension of lectures at the faculties of law and economic science, a student leader said. "Some students threw rocks at a police station at the law faculty and security forces intervened," the student said. Clashes also broke out at the nearby Faculty of Economic Science, he said, adding that only a few students took part. Similar disturbances took place last week on the campus at Kairouan, 200 kilometres south of Tunis, where seven students were arrested. There has been student agitation at Tunis University involving leftists and Islamic fundamentalists demanding the release of the arrested students and the withdrawal of police from campuses.

15 injured in blaze at Kuwait hotel

KUWAIT (R) — Fire engulfed the second floor of the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel Saturday injuring 15 people, a Kuwaiti fire department official said. The hotel, in the centre of Kuwait City, was evacuated after the blaze began about 8.30 p.m. (1730 GMT), a hotel official said. It was extinguished after an hour and a quarter. Witnesses said flames poured from the windows. The fire department official told Reuters 15 people suffered smoke inhalation. Three were firefighters and the rest included Egyptians, Lebanese and Jordanians. All were taken to hospital but none was seriously injured. The cause of the fire was not known. The hotel official said 90 per cent of the rooms on the second floor had been damaged. Most of the guests on other floors returned to their rooms.

Oman to open Palestine embassy

NICOSIA (R) — Oman said Sunday it would let the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) open an embassy in Muscat, more than one year after the declaration of a Palestinian state. The announcement followed talks between Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who is seeking the Sultanate's help in urging a greater European role to break the deadlock in Middle East peace moves. "The Sultanate's decision is to support the wise policy pursued by Palestinian President (Arafat) to resolve the Palestinian issue," the Omani News Agency quoted a Foreign Ministry statement as saying. Oman, current chairman of the Gulf Cooperation Council, urged the international community to work for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, it said.

Peace process stalled, hopes for progress grim

By Alan Elner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The Middle East peace process has fallen into a deep rut and no amount of effort by the United States and others seems likely to dislodge it soon, officials and analysts say.

After a week of meetings in Washington involving Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid and Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the sides seemed as far apart as ever on setting up an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

"I cannot say the gap has been narrowed. But I can say I understand some parameters of the Israeli-Palestinian position better," Rabin told reporters after a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The immediate goal of U.S. diplomacy is to arrange a meeting between Baker, Abdul Meguid and Israeli Foreign

Minister Moshe Arens. That would lead to unprecedented direct talks between Israel and a Palestinian delegation from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But Rabin said the sides were still too far apart on three key points to hold the long-awaited meeting.

"It is very difficult to suppose there will be a tripartite meeting before Israel and Egypt come closer on the three main issues — the composition of the Palestinian delegation, who will announce the members of the delegation and the agenda," Rabin said.

Abdul Meguid was slightly more optimistic, saying the problems could be overcome.

"This is not the first time we are faced with problems. So I am cautiously optimistic about the outcome of this whole exercise because there is a keen awareness of the necessity of peace for all of us in our area,"

he said. Elner signalled it would not negotiate with anyone closely associated with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) by arresting leading Palestinian nationalist Faisal Al Hussein Friday.

Israel has accused Hussein of being a key organiser of the Palestinian uprising.

But he is on the list of nearly all experts as a key member of a future Palestinian delegation and is seen as one of the most authoritative West Bank leaders as well as a man who has advocated peace with Israel.

"The Israelis seem to be building up a case against him to leave him out of the talks. But if he is not acceptable as a partner, who is?" said one Middle Eastern diplomat.

Barry Rubin, an analyst with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said all the current problems could be overcome given goodwill and

imagination from the parties. "But right now, things are stalled and it's proving very difficult to get over the hump."

One administration official said Baker's main weapon to get things moving was a constant, unspoken threat to abandon his mediation effort, leaving both Israelis and Palestinians with the job of explaining the failure to their respective constituencies and the world.

"Baker will have to use all his wiles and negotiating skills. So far, he has simply refused to take 'no' for an answer," the official said.

According to Geoffrey Kemp, a Middle East analyst with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir remained the key player.

"As long as he's under pressure from his own right wing, he won't make the kind of concessions needed," he said.

On the other hand, Shamir

feared being saddled with the blame for the process failing. This could reinforce calls in the U.S. Congress for a cut in Washington's \$3 billion of aid.

"Shamir is a canny enough politician to know that if the process collapses completely, he will come out a loser. To that extent, the process remains alive," said Kemp.

They key stumbling block to progress remains the composition of the Palestinian delegation. Israel insists it cannot include representatives from Arab Jerusalem or leaders expelled from the occupied territories.

Rabin said Baker had suggested ways around both these problems — allowing potential delegates from Arab Jerusalem to register as residents of other towns, and by allowing one or two expelled Palestinians not regarded as threats to Israel to return to the West Bank and join the delegation.

Khartoum fails to settle tribal feud

KHARTOUM (AP) — A government attempt to reconcile a tribal dispute that claimed 200 lives last month has failed when one tribe insisted perpetrators be punished before peace talks could begin, according to the official news agency.

The Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said Saturday representatives of the Shilluk tribe voiced the view in a meeting Friday with a government commission at the northernmost Upper Nile town of Renk.

SUNA said tribal chiefs and mayors in the Upper Nile region believe the commission was hastily sent to the area as investigation into last month's armed clashes between Shilluk and Sabaha tribes has not been completed.

Shilluk leaders, SUNA said, have demanded that government should disarm and condemn the perpetrators.

The two tribes clashed Dec. 28 when workers belonging to the African Shilluk refused to return to work after the Christmas holiday in a farm owned by a member of the Arab Sabaha tribe.

The military junta that seized power in Sudan June 30 on a coup said at the time that 182 Shilluk tribesmen and four Arabs were killed in the clashes. The fighting took place in Jabalin area, south

of Kosti about 400 kilometres south of the capital Khartoum. Shilluk and other displaced people from both southern and western Sudan, driven by war and famine, work in irrigated and semi-irrigated farms in central Sudan.

Shilluk is the main African tribe in the Upper Nile Region which is the birthplace of John Garang, leader of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

"No warplanes lost"

Sudan has denied that any of its warplanes have been shot down by the SPLA, SUNA said in another report.

The SPLA said Friday it had downed two Soviet-made TU-22 bombers in the past two weeks, one near Kajo Kaji and the other near Juba.

SUNA quoted an armed forces general command statement as saying, "What has been broadcast by the outlaws' radio in this regard was aimed at raising the morale of its defeated forces."

The rebels claimed more than a week ago to have overrun a government garrison at Kajo Kaji, near the Zairean border. Juba, an important provincial capital to the north, has been under virtual siege by the rebels for nearly a year.

Lebanon seeks U.N. effort to secure Israeli pullout

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A Lebanese representative seeking international pressure for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon met Saturday with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, a spokesman said.

Ali Al Khalil, Finance minister in President Elias Hrawi's eight week-old government of national reconciliation, travelled to the United States to mount a what he called campaign for the United Nations and the United States to "exert as much pressure as possible" for an Israeli pullout.

The men met for about 40 minutes Saturday at the secretary-general's residence, but no details of their discussion were disclosed, the U.N. chief's spokesman said.

During a news conference Friday, Khalil declined to comment on the content of talks he had with U.S. officials before heading to the United Nations. Khalil met in Washington with U.S. State Department officials in discussions that he described as "satisfactory."

The United Nations has been frustrated in its efforts to push war-torn Lebanon towards peace. The U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), sent to restore Lebanese sovereignty after an Israeli incursion in 1978, has been stymied by Israel's refusal to

evacuate its self-styled "security zone". Problems with local militias also have plagued the U.N. forces.

Since 1985, Israeli troops have maintained a "security zone" in southern Lebanon, patrolled by a militia ally, the South Lebanon Army (SLA).

U.N. attempts to mediate between Israel and Lebanon broke down in 1985. Since the Lebanese civil war erupted in 1975, the Security Council has been unable to effectively intervene in the embattled country.

Khalil said that in addition to pressing Perez de Cuellar for U.N. help in seeking an Israeli pullout, he planned to ask for support from Security Council members.

Hrawi was elected president by the Lebanese parliament in November as part of an Arab League-brokered peace plan aimed at ending Lebanon's civil war.

Khalil said the formation of a central government in Lebanon and plans to deploy a Lebanese army to cooperate with U.N. forces in southern Lebanon prove that the Lebanese people are unifying. He said the progress justifies heightened pressure for Israel to withdraw its troops.

Despite the election of an internationally recognised reconciliation government, leadership divisions remain in Lebanon. Michel Aoun, who controls the Christian enclave north of Beirut, regards himself as the head of the legitimate government, maintaining that Hrawi's election was unconstitutional. Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss dismissed Aoun as army commander and interim prime minister after the election of the reconciliation government.

During another news conference Friday at the United Nations, Arab League Representative Clovis Makoud said his organisation opposes any attempts to avoid a U.N. resolution that equates Zionism with racism.

In December, U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle called for a substitute measure to overturn the resolution of Zionism passed in 1975.

Makoud said any efforts to alter the world body's stand on the issue would greatly damage U.N. credibility and pose an obstacle to Middle East peace efforts.

The Zionism resolution remains a sore point with the United States and Israel.

Jordan Times

Tel: 667171

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Kocan
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
15:50 News summary in Arabic
15:55 World News
16:00 Local programme
16:05 Programme review
16:10 News in Arabic
16:15 Arabic series
16:20 Programme review
16:25 Local programmes
16:30 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Nick, Chasse des Etoiles
18:05 News in French
18:10 Weekly Sports magazine
18:15 News in Hebrew
18:20 Varieties
18:25 Empty Nest
18:30 Kase and Abel
18:35 News in English
18:40 Comedy

PRAYER TIMES

05:10 Fajr
06:30 Sunrise
11:47 Dhuhr
14:20 Asr
17:54 Maghrib
18:24 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifish
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terrence Church Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Armenian Church Tel. 623583, Tel. 625453.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261.
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be cold, cloudy and misty at times with westerly fresh wind. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with expected scattered showers and winds

will be southerly fresh and seas rough.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 3 / 8
Aqaba 8 / 18
Dera'a 3 / 10
Jordan Valley 9 / 17

Yesterday's high temperature:
Amman 10, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings:
Amman 95 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Othman Mustafa 774024
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 746070
Dr. Adnan Zughloul 89540
Dr. Muflood Tamaw 747964
Fire pharmacy 661912
Fire pharmacy 778356
Al Asema pharmacy 670355
Naiqonah pharmacy 625672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsiah pharmacy 671660

REPAIRS:
Dr. Kamal Al Najjar (-)

Al Sharras' pharmacy 985238

ZARQA:
Dr. Issadun Abdul Salam (-)
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 52, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891226
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 892090
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 874467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (Directorate assistance) 221
Overseas Calls 010290
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 660100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RU Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldil Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/6
Alkhalid Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/6
Jahel Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsiah 66417/4
Shamsiah Hospital 669131
Al-Salam Hospital 843402
Al-Salam, J. Amman 771101/3
Al-Salam, J. Amman 771101/3
Army, Macha 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Rm Sam Hospital (09)985732
REPAIRS:
Finnish Bazaar Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725

Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (05)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)3200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:45 Baghdad (RJ)
08:30 Damascus (RJ)
09:00 Sana'a (RJ)
09:30 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Kuwait (RJ)
10:15 Vienna, Istanbul (RJ)
10:45 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
10:45 Vienna, Istanbul (RJ)
10:45 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
10:50 Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:10 Sana'a (LH)
10:00 Baghdad (IA)
10:05 Cairo (MS)
10:40 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GP)
10:40 Kuwait (KU)
10:40 Bahrain (RJ)
10:45 Paris (AF)
06:25 Baghdad (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:00 Vienna, Montreal, New York (RJ)
11:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
13:00 Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
13:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
14:00 Jeddah (RJ)
14:00 Cairo (RJ)
14:05 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:15 London (BA)
06:15 Beirut (MT)
10:10 Frankfurt (LH)
10:25 Cairo (MS)
11:00 Baghdad (IA)
13:45 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GP)

MARKET PRICES

Upptown prices in file per kg.
Apple 420 / 380
Banana 430 / 400
Banana (Mekhem) 400 / 350
Broom 600 / 500
Cabbage 90 / 60
Carrot 210 / 120
Cauliflower 180 / 120
Cauliflower (large) 300 / 250
Cauliflower (small) 420 / 350
Dates 550 / 500
Dates (small) 800 / 700
Garlic 210 / 180
Lemon 200 / 170
Marrow (large) 180 / 120
Marrow (small) 300 / 250
Onion (dry) 250 / 200

King receives U.S. general

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received Sunday at the royal court General Carl Vuono, the United States army chief of staff who is on a visit to Jordan. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, Army Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth.

Vuono was later received by Abu Taleb. They discussed the military situation in the Middle East in general and cooperation in military affairs between the United States and Jordan in particular.

Several senior aides of Abu Taleb attended the meeting, after which Vuono was briefed on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Fired employees discuss strategy

By Sahar Obaidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — People fired from jobs in the public and private sector held their first public general meeting Saturday to air their views about the "political reasons" behind their dismissal and the process of their reinstatement ordered by the government.

More than 200 people crowded into the Razi hall at the Professional Associations' Complex to draft and sign a memorandum addressed to Prime Minister Mudar Badran, who earlier Saturday issued a circular to all departments approving the reinstatement of any citizen who lost his/her job by orders of the military governor (prime minister) under martial law provisions.

Acting in accordance to the circular, about 530 fired and rejected employees have submitted copies of their employment and dismissal letters to the Public Freedoms' Committee, which will forward them to the prime minister's office for the necessary action. The memorandum prepared Saturday was still in draft form Sunday. According to information available to the Jordan Times, the document demands that the years employees spent out of service be considered part of their service for which they can claim pension. The document also demands that the dismissed employee, when reinstated, be given the same grade and salary as fellow employees whose services were not interrupted and that they be given full backdated salaries.

A general point raised during Saturday's meeting was that the government should "order" the reinstatement of the fired employees, rather than just "approve" it.

Lawyer Asma Khader briefed the gathering on the legal aspects of the issue and argued that the matter was political rather than legal.

"For a long time our society has endured the effects of martial law and citizens suffered from accusations, based not on certainty but on doubt, that they were politically active and disturbing the country's peace and security," she said.

According to Khader, the long duration during which martial law was used led to "abuse of its provisions by the executive authority," and hundreds of private and public sector employees were fired. "These employees lost most of their rights, by being unable to contribute to their fields of speciality. They were also unable to prove their innocence, because decisions by the military governor could not be contested," she said.

"While Constitution provides for freedom of work and opinion, many citizens were deprived of this right or the right to resort to an ordinary judge to contest the administrative decision of dismissal," she argued.

The abolition of martial law must be followed by the elimination of its negative effects," she said. Khader outlined three steps to achieve this goal:

— The government should continue to implement measures to fulfil its pledge to completely lift martial law.

— The government should enact legislation to reinstate the complete elimination of the effects of martial law.

— The Lower House of Parliament should not approve the issuance of a law which absolves those responsible for the dismissal of the employees, of their responsibility, until after the effects of martial law are completely eliminated.

Although the executive authority cannot oblige the private sector to reemploy the dismissed employees, it bears the responsibility to ensure that the concerned people are reemployed, the lawyer said. "The private sector should be addressed by the two committees of public freedoms (that of the Professional Associations and that of the Lower House) so that they would reconsider the dismissal decisions," she said.

Khader also suggested that the committee should attempt to inform the public, through the media or personal contact, of the current changes taking place in the domain of public freedoms in order to form an effective public opinion.

Awards to be given for 1989 literature

AMMAN (J.T.) — Awards and certificates of merit will be distributed to authors who won the Queen Noor Al Hussein Award for 1989 for literary writings for children at a ceremony to be held at the Royal Cultural Centre Jan. 29 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

A total of 58 works of literature, including short stories, plays, poems and folk literature, were presented by writers taking part in the competition, which was initiated in 1988 with the purpose of encouraging literature for children.

Meanwhile, it was announced here that the 12th meeting of the executive board of the Arab Academy of Music associated to the Arab League, and the first Arab Music Rostrom organized by the International Music Council, affiliated with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), will take place in Amman from Feb. 3-7.

Municipalities to present memorandum to ACO

AMMAN (Petra) — Municipalities in Jordan are preparing to take part in a general conference organised by the Arab Cities Organisation (ACO) to be held in the Moroccan city of Tangiers Jan. 29.

A statement issued here Saturday said that local municipalities had prepared a memorandum offering ideas about loans given to municipal councils over the past years by the ACO's fund and plan to submit it to the five-day conference.

The statement said that the memorandum proposes a host of measures designed to grant Jordanian municipalities greater facilities for repayment of the loans and interests on them in the wake of the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar against foreign currencies.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition entitled "They chose 30 poets" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Mohammed Al Jalous at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILMS

- ★ A Soviet film entitled "Lena and Time" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.
- ★ A French film entitled "La Femme d'A coté" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday views the handicraft products of a batch of women who completed a vocational training course (Petra photo)

64 women finish handicraft courses

JERASH (Petra) — 64 young women completed training courses in handicrafts and graduated here Sunday at a ceremony attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma.

The graduates took courses in dressmaking, knitting and weaving, embroidery and artificial flower arrangement.

The society president, Inaya Khalil, thanked Her Highness

Princess Basma for supporting charitable and voluntary societies. She also outlined the society's development and future programme.

Princess Basma, who is chairperson of the board of trustees of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QASF), later met with the administrative board and discussed voluntary and charitable

programmes. She was told about the shortages in services for children in the Jerash region, and the Princess committed the QASF to setting up a model centre in Jerash for the welfare of children.

The society was established in 1971 with the aim of promoting the condition of children and providing vocational training to local women in a bid to raise the standard of the local community.

Initial tests indicate sorghum not poisonous

AMMAN (J.T.) — Initial tests conducted on sorghum samples used by local farmers to feed livestock indicated that the material is not toxic and is fit for animal consumption, according to Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat.

The minister announced the initial results of tests conducted by a technical committee at specialised laboratories. He said there was no indication of any negative side effects on animals consuming the imported sorghum.

The minister said the committee comprised experts from the ministries of agriculture and supply and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) who were entrusted with supervising the tests. A full report about the sorghum will be published in the coming few days, he said.

The announcement came in the wake of complaints raised in the local press.

Ministry of Supply Secretary-

General Radi Ibrahim said in a statement Saturday that the ministry had received no complaints about sheep or cattle being poisoned as a result of consuming the imported feed. A total of 120,000 tonnes of sorghum out of a consignment of 200,000 imported from the United States had been consumed, but the sole complaint of the farmers was about the relatively smaller quantity of milk produced from cows fed on the sorghum, according to Ibrahim.

Ibrahim said that the low amounts of milk resulted from improper use by local farmers. The feed should contain 40 per cent sorghum, 40 per cent barley and 20 per cent bran; otherwise milk production could be less than expected, Ibrahim said. Improper mixture of animal feed could also cause acidity in the milk, he added.

In his announcement Sunday, the minister assured local stock breeders that the sorghum used in the country was not poisonous. The minister supported Ibrahim's views about the mixture of the animal feed.

The minister also announced that Jordan had sufficient amounts of animal feed of all types in storage and efforts were being made to ensure the availability of 300,000 tonnes of sorghum on a permanent basis to ensure sufficient supplies for local farms.

The government, according to Ministry of Agriculture sources, now subsidises sorghum with 50 per cent of its cost.

Last April, the U.S. Feed Grains Council organised a grain sorghum utilisation seminar here in cooperation with the Ministry of Supply. The meeting covered aspects of sorghum usage for poultry and livestock. Subsequently, the Ministry of Supply imported 200,000 tonnes of sorghum from the United States and distributed it to farmers in June last year.

Abdul Rahman said the three colleges were all qualified and possessed doctorate degrees.

The Ministry of Education said that the advanced training college project was part of a 10-year scheme to carry out an overhaul of the educational system in Jordan in implementation of resolutions adopted by the first national educational conference held in 1987.

It said that a total of 27,000 men and women teachers would be provided with advanced training in the course of the programme.

Abdul Rahman said the 544 candidates would be enrolled at the Amman college, 416 in Irbid and 320 in Karak. The trainees have to acquire at least 70 credit hours to enable them to obtain a bachelor of arts degree.

He said the Ministry of Education nominates candidates for these courses from private and government schools and those run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

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House committee cuts draft budget by JD 15m

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament's Financial Committee has finished discussion on the 1990 national budget and has succeeded, through consultations with leading economists and deliberations, in reducing the total envisaged expenditures by JD 15 million, committee Chairman Abdullah Nsour said Sunday.

Speaking after a five-hour committee meeting attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Lower House Speaker Suleiman Arar, Nsour said a full report on the subject would be submitted to a full House session Saturday.

Commenting on the session, Badran said all aspects pertaining to the fiscal budget were discussed in a "manner that can best manifest close cooperation between the government and the House."

"The government will now abide by the points agreed on with the deputies concerning the budget for 1990 and will implement all possible changes to meet the requirements," the prime minister stressed.

According to the draft budget, presented by Finance Minister Basal Jaradneh to the Lower House earlier this month, the total expenditure was estimated at JD 1.105 billion and projected revenues JD 906.7 million with a deficit of JD 199 million.

Nsour said in his statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the committee recommended that the fiscal budget should details the functions and operations of semi-independent institutions whose total budget amounts to JD 600 million for 1990.

Nsour said issues that were discussed by the committee Sunday included unemployment and the steep rise in prices in Jordan. "The committee questioned

the government about its plans to deal with the problem of unemployment and what short- and long-term strategies would be adopted and what projects would be implemented to help contain this problem," Nsour said.

He said the question of soaring prices was discussed and the committee was in the process of adopting a series of economic measures which still need to be discussed by Parliament.

Foreign Ministry reply

In another development, the House's administrative committee held a meeting Sunday with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem who was questioned about Foreign Ministry officials who had been transferred to other government departments or retired on pension.

Qasem presented a statement justifying the action, which, he said, was based on ministry regulations. He said there was no injustice done to any of the affected employees but they can raise the matter in court if they were not satisfied by the ministry's action.

According to the committee's chairman, Jamal Khreisha, the committee will prepare a report on the situation to be submitted to the House.

Public complaints

Members of the House's Administrative Committee charged with dealing with public complaints met Sunday with members of the executive council of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and a group of Jordanian merchants to discuss soaring prices of goods.

Khreisha said the government subsidies part of the basic commodities but most people are critical of the "excessive profits"

made by merchants on different commodities.

"While merchants continue to deny that they were selling at unjustifiably high prices, all indications point to the fact that prices are going up all the time and the rates of increases are incompatible with the degree of the financial crisis Jordan is facing at the moment," committee member Deputy Ahmad Abbadi said at the meeting.

He said: "If this trend continues the poverty line in Jordan will reach 80 per cent of the population. 'No solutions can be found without probing the questions of salaries, unemployment and prices in general,' Abbadi called for the formation of a joint committee grouping merchants and the government to study 'real causes behind the soaring prices and offer solutions.'"

The Federation Chairman Mohammad Asfour told the meeting that the depletion of the treasury's foreign currency reserves led to a devaluation of the dinar's value which subsequently resulted in the price increases of imported goods.

Asfour pointed out that the business sector in Jordan contributes 17 per cent of the gross national product (GNP), provides employment for 10 per cent of the total workforce and pays duty on imported goods and taxes estimated at eight per cent of the GNP, representing nearly 52 per cent of the total taxes collected in the country, and provides 25 per cent of total local revenues.

He called on the government to float prices and to allow merchants to make at least 22 per cent profit.

At the end of the meeting agreement was reached on the formation of a committee from both sides to present a detailed study to the Lower House on possible solutions.

State of Palestine to issue certificate

(Continued from page 1)

measures during the Palestinian uprising for the decline in the volume of the produce from the occupied territories marketed in the Kingdom.

According to the minister, the Israeli authorities demand that Palestinian farmers pay all their taxes to the occupation forces before being allowed to ship their produce across the River Jordan.

"When the farmer finds that he has to pay thousands of dinars before being able to sell his crop he would not do it," Arabiyat said.

Reports have said that "imposed delays" by the occupation authorities at the bridges across the river also pose a major problem for vegetable and fruit exporters from the occupied territories. A U.N. fact-finding mission has found that such delays result in perishing of the product, especially when exposed to severe heat during summer.

Arabiyat pointed out that the frequent Israeli-imposed curfews as well as civil disobedience measures adopted by the Palestinians in the occupied territories "have reflected greatly on the picking of crops and the transportation of goods across the bridges."

"These measures have created a suffocating hurdle in the way of marketing agricultural crops from the occupied territories," Arabiyat added.

Israel also pressures farmers and truck drivers from the West Bank and hinders the transportation of goods across the bridges by imposing a rule that requires truck drivers carrying the goods to return to the territories on the same day, Arabiyat said.

He denied that Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank had any impact on the ministry's cooperation with farmers in the occupied territories.

"We deal with them in light of the very special relationship between Jordan and an occupied homeland... the decision to sever ties is a political decision but does not mean that we would give up our role in the territories," Arabiyat said.

"Israeli authorities also limit the number of trucks which leave everyday and handle the issuing of permits haphazardly," Arabiyat said.

Ministry of Interior statistics say that only 200 trucks in the West Bank are authorised to cross into Jordan and this number has not increased since 1967.

"The same trucks used to run in 1967 and are still running on their Jordanian plates issued before that date," Arabiyat said.

While West Bank agricultural produce are transported to the central market in Jordan and sold there according to the same rules applied to produce from Jordan, produce from the Gaza Strip only pass through Jordan to other Arab countries.

"Upon the request of farmers in the Strip, fruits and vegetables from their farms are kept in coolers until they are exported to other Arab countries," Arabiyat explained.

Official accounts spoke of fighting in Nakhichevan, an Azerbaijani territory bordering Iran and Turkey where Armenian militants were said to have a staged raids on villages.

Nakhichevan, a small autonomous region, declared Saturday that it was seceding from the Soviet Union. Moscow has made no public comment.

A correspondent for the Communist Youth daily Komsomolskaya Pravda said he had counted eight corpses outside the barracks on Saturday.

Najaf Najafov, a spokesman

Azeri cadets battle

(Continued from page 1)

a Moscow spokesman for the front, said gunfire was confined later to the Salyansk barracks, site of running battles Saturday.

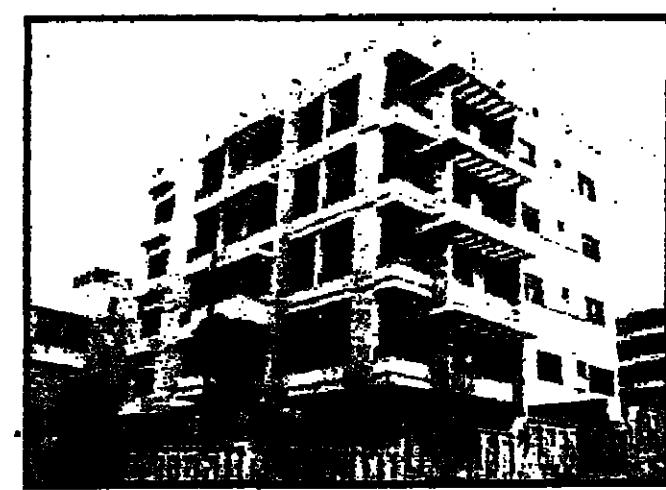
Soviet military spokesman said snipers who had seized apartments opposite the barracks were pinning troops down and preventing them from leaving.

A correspondent for the Communist Youth daily Komsomolskaya Pravda said he had counted eight corpses outside the barracks on Saturday.

Najaf Najafov, a spokesman

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64 Business Management	33 Motorcycle Repair	35 Diesel Mechanics
65 Business Management	52 Surveying & Mapping	67 TV/VCR Repair
66 Business Management	04 Fitness & Nutrition	03 Child Day Care
67 Business Management	08 Small Engine Repair	85 Drafting
68 Business Management	21 Veterinary Assistant	39 Travel Agent
69 Business Management	246 Digital Electronics Servicing	2604 Architecture
70 Business Management	2500 Building Trades	2902 Machine Shop
71 Business Management	08 General Business	01 Engineering
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Weekly Political Pulse

Debating the national pact

By Waleed Sadi

SEVERAL parliamentarians and many Jordanians have expressed reservations about the very idea of enacting a national pact to govern the future socio-political and economic course of the country. Some of the sceptics question the wisdom and need for such a national pact on the rationale that it may supersede or contravene the Constitution of the Kingdom. Therefore such dubious commentators feel they are at a loss why the country should embark on such a project. Others question the plan to bypass the newly elected parliament to articulate the projected national pact and have it adopted or rejected through a referendum.

The first principal objection touches on the very principle of a national pact per se as an instrument to spell out political or socio-economic platforms for the country. To be sure, in countries with long and solid traditions in democracy, the idea of a national pact of a generic nature would be regarded as redundant or even anathema to existing institutionalised mechanisms to gauge public opinion with a view to adopting or rejecting such broad terms of reference. In such developed nations, only a specific issue or subject can be put up for a plebiscite when the end result of it stands to amend a particular part of the organic law of the country. As for developing countries, the rule of thumb would tolerate the resort to referendums when the Constitution of the

country in question is lacking in fundamental details and there are dangerous loopholes that need urgent rectification.

It follows, therefore, that in the case of Jordan, the final judgement on whether there is a justifiable need for a national pact depends in the final analysis on the contents of the projected pact. There is no doubt that Jordan's democratic traditions are in an embryonic stage and that they are now developing and consolidating at an accelerating pace. To argue that the existing organic law of the Kingdom is sufficiently endowed with all the features necessary for an operation democracy would be sheer euphoria. Seen against this backdrop, the contents of the envisaged national pact must be viewed as either complementary or supplementary to the provisions of the Constitution.

It goes without saying that to the extent that the articles of the new national pact differ from the provisions of the existing Constitution, they must be construed as amendments to the existing Constitution. If there are discrepancies between the national pact and the Constitution and they have therefore the effect of amendments to the Constitution, then such amendments require the approval of two thirds of both houses of Parliament in accordance with Article 126 of the Constitution itself. If such differences between the national pact and the Constitution are not deemed amendments, then one may ask about their legal standing and importance. In

the same vein, if they are something which is less than an amendment to the Constitution or better still there are no conflicts between it and the Constitution, then one may question the legal necessity of having them adopted or rejected, as the case may be, by a plebiscite. If they are rejected then obviously there would be no legal implications, and the entire issue becomes moot. The issue becomes real and pressing when and if the anticipated national pact is adopted and contains provisions that are deemed by a proper authority to be unharmonious with the letter and spirit of the Constitution.

If on the other hand, the intents and purposes of the proposed national pact are to serve an objective which has less than the force of law, then the whole issue would assume an entirely new dimension. As a matter of fact it has been suggested that the purpose of the pact is to override the Constitution or even touch upon it but rather to serve as some kind of guidelines on the basis of a national consensus encompassing the broad spectrum of socio-political thought in the country. If this is the case, then all the common and anxieties that arose out of the proposal to adopt a national pact are not well placed and therefore unjustified. Accordingly, what needs to be spelled out in the clearest possible terms are the contents of the projected pact and the definition of its legal standing before a judgement could be exercised. Otherwise the whole debate about it is premature.

New formula needed

SOVIET President Mikhail Gorbachev's decision to use military means to quell the ethnic violence between the Azerbaijanis and the Armenians has won respect and support from practically all quarters of the world except Iran. Much of the support came from the West where a distinction was made between an armed intervention to quash an uprising for liberty and self-determination and one that aims to stop a bloodbath between ethnic groups as is the case now in the city of Baku. The general consensus in the international community is that the death toll would have been greater had the Soviet Union abstained from the use of military means to separate the two fighting national groups and put an end to their armed conflict.

In retrospect, ending the fighting between the Azerbaijanis and the Armenians is the easier part in the ethnic equation that is haunting the Soviet Union. The harder task would lie in the search for a permanent solution to the endemic conflicts between the various nationalities that make up the Soviet Union on a rational and equitable basis. As the Soviet leader has stated in the aftermath of the armed struggle between the Azerbaijanis and the Armenians, the seeds of such conflicts have been sown a long time ago and were left to simmer for much too long unattended till the crisis finally exploded in the face of the entire country. Today the eruption of the volcano has taken the shape and form of the Azerbaijan-Armenian armed conflict; tomorrow it will surely take another dimension no less ominous. There can be no real and effective end to the blood-letting in the Soviet Union as long as the structure of relations between the various nationalities within the USSR is left to simmer in its archaic form.

It is unimaginable that peoples like the Azerbaijanis and the Armenians, belonging to two different faiths and cultures, could be expected to live peacefully and harmoniously side by side within the framework of the present Soviet Union. To unite the two republics that house the two different peoples in such a close and fixed formula is like attempting to mix oil with water. The ingenuity of Mikhail Gorbachev, the genius who introduced perestroika and glasnost to the Soviet Union, needs to be extended to include the restructuring of the competing republics that comprise the Soviet Union. As assimilation between the various peoples that make up the Soviet Union has been ruled out a long time ago, as non viable and non operational option, a new and bold formula must be found to accommodate the competing needs and aspirations of these very different peoples in a contemporary framework that would guarantee durability. That is where the attention of Moscow needs to be directed after an uneasy calm is restored between the warring Azerbaijanis and Armenians.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Sunday commented in an editorial on His Majesty King Hussein's statement to the Al Safir newspaper in which the King warned of the danger inherent in Israel's current policies of absorbing Jewish settlers. The paper said that all the Arab countries and not only Jordan and Palestine, are now face to face with a new danger which should be confronted jointly and with proper measures. Israel's practices in the occupied Arab territories on the one hand and its drive to absorb thousands of Jews on the other are sufficient to call the Arabs for joint action with which they can confront the coming stage, the paper noted. It said that the King's call on the Arabs to confront the looming danger, is a call for holding an Arab summit meeting where joint action can be charted and collective work can be planned at the highest level. The paper said that Jordan has been firmly and persistently standing with steadfastness in the face of Israel's practices, but it can not confront long-term Israeli plans all by itself as it continues to provide support for the PLO and the Palestinian people, said the paper. The paper warned that the Israeli danger is now directed at the future of the Arab Nation and the future Arab generations.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily urges the Arab Nation in general and Jordan in particular to take Israeli leaders statements that Jordan is the homeland of the Palestinians seriously. Fahd Al Fakak says that this slogan had originally emanated from the extremist right in Israel, but the Likud party is now consecrating the slogan, and the Labour party is bound to follow suit. The writer expresses the view that Israel will resort to this solution and will try to establish a homeland for the Palestinian people to escape from the ongoing pressure exercised on the Jewish state by the Palestinian uprising. Indeed, a general Jewish conference held in Israel towards the end of 1989 was organised under the slogan of Jordan is Palestine in view of Jordan's decision to sever links with the occupied West Bank, the writer notes. He says that Israel has realised that since King Hussein does not want to help Israel resolve the question of the intifada, then Israel should not help the King in retaining and maintaining his Kingdom which should now serve as a homeland for the Palestinians. Israel's new drive to create a homeland for the Palestinian people so that it can get rid of the uprising and the protesting Palestinians, says the writer, should be taken into serious consideration by the Jordanian people whose identity is now being threatened in a similar manner as that of the Palestinian identity.

Al Dustour daily also commented on a statement by His Majesty King Hussein in which he warned of the looming danger inherent in Israel's current plans to settle thousands of Jews on Arab land occupied since 1967. The paper said that the Soviet Jews are bound to be settled on land stolen from the lawful Arab owners, and so Israel will be stronger and its dream of a greater Israel encompassing Arab lands from the Euphrates to the Nile will be fulfilled. The paper pointed out that King Hussein is the first Arab leader to sound the alarm though one can see that the Arab Nation is not yet fully aware of the coming danger. What is more important is the ongoing campaign in the Israeli media that Jordan will serve as a homeland for the Palestinians, said the paper. The Soviet Jewish immigration question should not be left unattended, said the paper, and the Soviet Union should be approached collectively by the Arab countries after a summit meeting that can chart the Arab Nation's coming position.

By Hisham Sharabi

ACCORDING to the best estimates, of the five million Palestinians in the world today, roughly one half live within historical Palestine-Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip — and the other half in the diaspora. The greatest concentration of the diaspora is in Jordan and the second largest in Lebanon and Syria. The rest of the Palestinians are scattered in small communities throughout the Arab World, Europe, America and elsewhere. In the United States there are about 100,000 Palestinians.

The importance of the Palestinian diaspora derive partly from its size and its socio-economic structure, but also from the fact that the Palestinian Liberation Organisation is based in the diaspora. A large segment of the displaced population still lives in refugee camps in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, and is composed largely of former farmers and small landowners from villages and towns in Galilee and the coastal plain of Palestine. An important group consists of second or third generation camp dwellers who moved out of the camps as education, job opportunities and the possibility to emigrate opened up in the 1970s and '80s. A third group is composed of the business and professional bourgeoisie, augmented over the years by a small number of former camp dwellers. As a result of free education in the UNRWA schools and in some Arab universities, the latter were able to break away from their refugee status and acquire education and wealth. What characterises all these groups is that most of their members came from parts of Palestine that became Israel in 1948, and not from the West Bank and Gaza, the area of the projected Palestinian state.

It is important to keep in mind

that the Palestinian resistance movement — the PLO and its affiliates — was born in the diaspora. Until 1967 the "inside" Palestinians were a small cowed minority within Israel. "Outside" Palestinians, including those living in the West Bank and Gaza, formed the bulk of the Palestinian people. After Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza in 1967, the "inside" was transformed, now accounting for nearly half of the total Palestinian population. Despite this change in the numerical balance, the centre of decision and command remained firmly rooted in the "outside." This situation changed little until December 1987 when the intifada broke out and within a few weeks transformed the relationship between the "outside" and "inside."

On the "inside" this transformation was expressed in revolutionary change on every level of existence and in every segment of society. On the "outside" it took a more problematic form, which can be seen on two different levels, that of the resistance movement (the PLO), and that of the diaspora communities.

Once it became clear that the outbreak in early December 1987 was not a passing incident but a genuine national uprising, its impact on the PLO establishment was electrifying. In the eyes of the world, the PLO almost overnight regained its *raison d'être* and its status as leader of a people engaged in a heroic national struggle. The demands put forth by the Unified Command of the intifada now replaced the vague, bombastic rhetoric of the PLO, clearly spelling out the uprising's political objectives: the end of the occupation, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel, and mutual security guarantees — goals which most of the international community unhesitatingly and fully supported. This made possi-

ble within a few months the enactment of the Palestinian National Council resolutions enabling Chairman Arafat to declare — in words acceptable to the United States — the PLO's recognition of Israel and its rejection of "terrorism" as a method of struggle.

Over a year has now passed since these concessions were made. The only palpable result has been the opening of the Palestinian-American dialogue, which to this moment has not gone much beyond the initial "technical" stage. Clearly, the PLO has not yet succeeded in translating the intifada — and its own significant concessions — into political progress.

Where the PLO has failed

This failure reflected a larger problem: the PLO's inability to forge a united Arab position incorporating basic Palestinian demands, a position credible enough to impress the Bush administration and to enhance EEC support. The PLO has also been unable to reach out to the Arab masses and to galvanise the kind of expressive popular support that would demonstrate to Israel, the Arab governments, the United States, and the world at large the depth of popular backing the intifada enjoys; and it has fallen short in providing adequate humanitarian and financial aid to the embattled population of the West Bank and Gaza. But perhaps the PLO's major failure lies in its seeming inability to put its own house in order: to institute such structural reforms as would rationalise its bureaucracy and enable it to cope with the highly complex and difficult tasks confronting it.

This failure has given rise to severe criticism from within the PLO establishment, especially from some of Mr. Arafat's Palestinian American followers

who recently spoke out publicly against the ineptitude and corruption of PLO officials. Unfortunately the way these criticisms were made and the limits within which they were set served to blunt their impact. So far little has been achieved beyond a few fruitless skirmishes in the London-based Arabic press. As far as the diaspora communities are concerned, the intifada has brought new hope and profound emotional renewal. Its impact is reminiscent of the upsurge of Palestinian feeling that followed the battle of Karameh in 1968. But these communities lack any organisational framework or centre. They have been left on their own to try and raise funds to help the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza.

In the United States, for example, a number of Palestinian charitable organisations, such as the Jerusalem Fund, the Holy Land Fund, and the Palestine Aid Society, raised relatively large sums of money; and Arab American organisations, particularly the Arab-American Institute, the Anti-Discrimination Committee, and the National Association of Arab Americans, paid for political advertisements and sponsored eye-witness trips to the West Bank and Gaza. However, neither these organisations nor the PLO offices in the United States were equipped to take advantage of the tremendous opportunities provided by the change in American public opinion caused by the intifada.

Mounting frustration

As the second anniversary of the intifada drew near, a feeling of mounting anger and frustration spread throughout the Palestinian and Arab community in the United States — anger at the hypocrisy of the Bush administration and frustration with the ineptitude of the PLO and Arab states.

Warsaw Pact changes as Moscow's allies show independence

By Nicholas Pythian
Reuters

VIENNA — Moscow's East European allies, long regarded as blind followers of the Kremlin's bidding, are showing a new independent spirit in their military thinking.

The Warsaw Pact is going through a period of transformation, U.S. military commander General Colin Powell told a news conference last week during a unique seminar in Vienna with the pact's top military chiefs.

"It was interesting to see the emergence of national interest with respect to the armies in each

of the Warsaw Pact nations and how they seem in some cases to make unilateral judgments," he said.

Non-Communists or reform Communists, anxious to hold on to power through the ballot box, are in office throughout the former Soviet sphere of influence. Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland's Solidarity leader Lech Walesa have all told Moscow they want its troops to leave their soil by the end of the year.

Hungary, breaking with the arms talks tradition of bloc speaking to bloc, suggested on Thursday that NATO and the pact should consider even deeper cuts

in the numbers of troops stationed on foreign soil in Europe.

None of this comes as much surprise to the Soviet Union which recognises that the pact must change following the collapse of the Communist power monopoly in Eastern Europe.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, after all released the pent-up frustrations of the People's of Eastern Europe, who took a lead from his perestroika and glasnost reforms.

But last week's seminar, in the historic setting of the Hofburg palace where the 1815 congress of Vienna redrafted the map of Europe after the defeat of French

Emperor Napoleon I, did provide clues as to the pact's immediate future.

"It is our deep conviction that in future the Warsaw treaty organisation as a military-political bloc must become a politico-military alliance," Powell's opposite number, Soviet chief of staff Mikhail Moiseyev, told the seminar. "This is not a play on words. This phrase has deep meaning to it."

The Warsaw Pact was one of the twin pillars of Soviet domination of Eastern Europe. The Soviet-led Comecon trading bloc, which is undergoing changes of its own, was the other.

The Soviet Union, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania set up the pact in 1955. Albania quit in 1968, the year pact forces invaded Czechoslovakia and crushed the Prague spring reform movement.

In 1985, the remaining members signed a new 20-year treaty. But political changes are making them seriously felt.

"In almost every case the armed forces are becoming smaller in response to their own internal economic problems and in

terms of their own internal national assessment of what their defence requirements are," Powell said of his talks with Moscow's allies.

"It seemed that each one of them was making their own judgment — as a member of the Warsaw Pact — as to what their individual state national security requirements are."

General Nikolai Chervov, head of the directorate of the Soviet general staff, painted the picture of an alliance reflecting the new political realities.

Liberian refugees swamp Ivory Coast

By Brian Killen
Reuters

DANANE, Ivory Coast — An uprising in Liberia against President Samuel Doe has prompted army reprisals and a refugee exodus to neighbouring Ivory Coast, raising fears of epidemics in crowded settlements.

"The army has burned down my home and taken everything, so what is there to go back to?" asks Dennis Sayeh, one of more than 35,000 Liberian refugees who have flooded into Ivory Coast in the last three weeks.

Sayeh, who says he was shot in the leg by troops trying to put down a rebellion against Doe, knows there is little chance of his returning home soon.

The Ivorian government knows it too and is organising emergency food aid, medicine and clothing for thousands of refugees.

The uprising in Liberia, a west

African country founded by freed American slaves in 1847, triggered army reprisals three weeks ago, refugees say.

It has also set off a refugee exodus that has tripled the population of many Ivorian villages.

Local government officials, foreign aid workers and doctors said refugees were still arriving, especially around the town of Toulepleu, 600 kilometres north-west of the main city Abidjan. Food, medicine and clothing were in short supply.

One official said the number of refugees in Toulepleu alone had swollen to 5,000 from 500 in the past week after rebels attacked and razed the nearby Liberian border villages of Behlwey and Yonpria.

"There are only a few wounded and we haven't seen any cases of malnutrition yet, but we're close to that. The refugees are still

coming and some villages are eating next year's seed," he added.

Foreign aid workers said that since fighting was continuing in Liberia's northeast Nimba county, refugees were not returning there. Monrovia says it has Nimba county under control but sporadic firing can still be heard from the Ivorian side.

The uprising could have long-term economic implications for Liberia if farmers were abandoning their fields to escape the fighting, they added. Some refugees are subsistence farmers. There are no refugee camps in Ivory Coast, because most of the Liberians have friends or relatives from the same tribes on this side of the border.

"These are our brothers, so we have to share everything we have with them even if it means emptying our food stores," said one Ivorian who took in 14 re-

fugees.

"We are putting a burden on the people who are living here," said Joseph Benson, a school teacher who fled Buhio village with his two wives and 10 children. Benson, who walked through the bush for two days after first the rebels then the army attacked Buhio, now shares a tiny house with 35 people.

Ivorian doctors are worried about epidemics breaking out in such cramped huts.

"Refugee aid is being channelled through the international Red Cross who say there is a problem with food and possibly disease from drinking polluted water," one American aid worker said.

Seyla Mathurin, chief doctor at the rural health centre in Danane, said teams were vaccinating the refugees, mostly children under 12, against measles and yellow fever.

LETTERS

Misplaced logic

To the Editor:

ONE is bombarded daily with the "news" of the government's unending efforts to drastically reduce public spending. One is therefore reduced to comatose disbelief on reading in the Jordan Times, Jan. 14, that the mayor of Amman, Ali Suheimat, has decided to actually go ahead with the purchase of 20 garbage processing trucks for the staggeringly incredible sum of one and a half million dinars. Does Amman need, or indeed can it afford to spend this kind of money on garbage trucks?

Foreign currency drain apart — one wonders, is it sensible, or even politically wise at this point in time, to spend such vast sums of foreign currency (sums of course, the trucks are made in Jordan)?

We have managed to do without them in the "good old days" so why now in these relatively

"bad days"?

One could come up with hundreds of ways this money could be more beneficially utilised, when one considers that Amman is far cleaner than London, Paris or New York.

Perhaps Suheimat could donate our taxes to a more worthy cause like subsidising the soaring cost of subsistence living to the vast masses of unemployed or low income groups — or even donate it, if he prefers, to the Amman municipality to reduce their deficit of JD 3, 190, 680.

I am sure that, given the choice, 99.9 per cent of the population of Amman would agree to forgo the luxury of spotless streets if their quality of life could be improved.

Sheila Haddad
Amman

Details of Communist leaders' love of blood sport

By Viora Urma
The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Eastern Europe's old-guard Communist leaders led lives largely out of view of the common people, showing themselves mainly in carefully orchestrated public occasions.

But the revolutions that have toppled them laid bare their often-luxurious lifestyles, with an odd common footnote: A love of hunting. Or hunting of a sort.

Many of them, it turns out, were proud big-game killers who eagerly exhibited their trophies and demanded copious praise for their supposed prowess.

But it was a brand of hunting that bore little resemblance to sport. For the now toppled or dead leaders, the hunts were staged spectacles, calculated bloodbaths in which skill or luck played scant part.

Romania's Nicolae Ceausescu, Bulgaria's Todor Zhivkov, Hungary's János Kádár, East Germany's Erich Honecker, several high-ranking Czechoslovak officials and the Yugoslav strongman Josip Broz Tito, who died of natural causes in 1980, were all enthusiastic hunters.

Czechoslovak game officials tell of private hunting retreats, of helicopter flights to favorite shooting grounds, of officials who rolled down the windows of limousines to make their kills.

Real hunters considered it "animal murder," the Czechoslovak news agency CTK said.

CTK quoted unidentified officials of the hunters' association as saying this "hunting elite" not only spent thousands of dollars, but "did nothing in respect the traditions and ethics of hunting."

In East Germany, the now-out Honecker, former Premier Willi Stoph and their top lieutenants used at least 30 different hunting areas in the country reserved for high Communist officials, the West German magazine Stern reported.

Honecker's country estate included a luxurious lodge at Drewno near Neuenbrunn, located in an 11,000-hectare forested area off-limits to the public.

East German forest rangers assigned to the area said Honecker and the others sometimes gun-

ned down deer, wild pig, and other animals at feeding stations, or used bright lights at night to blind their prey, Stern said.

Forest rangers and security agents would drive the game out into open areas so the officials could get a clear shot, West Germany's Bild newspaper said.

Most of this activity took place well out of the public eye. But in 1977, Bucharest was the site of a strange exhibit — the game trophies of Communist leaders. Half a million people turned out to see it.

Dominating the entrance to the hall was a huge brown bear said to have been shot by Ceausescu, who was credited with setting a world record by bagging it.

Altogether, 108 of Ceausescu's trophies were exhibited, including bear skins and skulls, wild boar fangs, stag and roebuck horns, together with his medals for the kills.

Bulgaria's Todor Zhivkov, ousted in November, was hailed at the Bucharest exhibit for bringing down a world-record-sized stag in the mid-1970s, and its antlers were displayed.

The exhibit also said Tito had taken a grand prize for an Alpine goat shot in Yugoslavia and that Kádár had set a hunting record with his kill of a roe deer.

Gen. Ion Pacepa, a Romanian senior counterintelligence officer who defected to the United States in 1978, later wrote about the hunts staged for Ceausescu. "Small armies of forest rangers all around the country did nothing but prepare his hunts," he said in his book "Red horizons."

"They tied down half a dead horse in places where bears were known to look for water at daybreak or after sundown, and then they watched the bait," wrote Pacepa.

When in due course a bear arrived, Ceausescu would be quickly summoned to make the kill equipped with a special rifle fitted with a night scope, Pacepa said.

The fascination with blood sport seems ironic in light of Ceausescu's fate. On Christmas day, 1989, toppled by a popular revolution, he was executed by firing squad, together with his wife Elena.

Feature cartoons entering new golden age

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

HOLLYWOOD — The debut of two animated features has inspired euphoric predictions that the cinematic art form is facing a new golden era akin to the burst of creativity a half-century ago that produced such classics as "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and "Fantasia."

Walt Disney's "The Little Mermaid" and Don Bluth's "All Dogs Go to Heaven" opened head-to-head in U.S. theaters recently.

The twin releases — on the heels of the successful Roger Rabbit phenomenon — signal a resurgence of animation, once threatened with extinction because of huge production costs.

"I've never seen it as good as this. The future looks unlimited," said Andreas Deja, a Disney animator on "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" and "The Little Mermaid."

The Disney animated musical, based on the fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen, has received raves from critics.

Dolores Barclay of The Associated Press said "The Little Mermaid" is "a rhapsody of animated excellence, a symphony that never loses its polish or grace... and teaches us all to never lose sight of dreams and hope."

Janet Maslin of The New York Times called the movie "a marvel of skillful animation, witty songwriting and smart planning."

The verdict for "All Dogs Go to Heaven" was not as good.

"I think the resurgence has been due to return to good storytelling," said John Pomeroy, animator-partner with Don Bluth's production company. "Instead of an 80-minute showcase for dolls and products based on the characters, we're trying to grip the audience with good stories."

Ten years ago, the animated feature film was fast fading. Disney was the only keeper of the flame, and the studio was lumbering along with one new feature every three years. "The Black Cauldron" was a \$30 million bomb in 1985.

The rebirth of animation can be traced to a pair of events.

In 1979, Bluth led a dozen young animators out the Disney studio gates, proclaiming that management had lost Walt's creative vision. He set up his own shop to make a feature, "The Secret of NIMH," delved into video arcade games, then combined with Steven Spielberg for "An American Tail" and "The Land Before Time."

In 1984, the Disney manage-

ment was overturned in a power play led by Roy E. Disney, Walt's nephew. Roy, along with the new production team of Michael Eisner and Jeffrey Katzenberg, beefed up the animation department and announced the goal of a feature a year. That schedule has been met with "The Great Mouse Detective" (1987), "Oliver and Company" (1988), "The Little Mermaid" plus the semi-animated megahit "Who Framed Roger Rabbit."

A major reason for animation's return is something even Walt Disney could not have foreseen: the home video market.

Released in stores Sept. 28, Disney's "Bambi" — which debuted in 1942 — has already sold 10.5 million cassettes at the \$26.99 suggested retail price. "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" has sold 8 million at \$22.99 since Oct. 12. "The Land Before Time" has sold 7 million cassettes.

Despite the industry's enthusiasm, Charles Solomon, author of "Enchanted Drawings," a history of the art, is skeptical about a new golden age: "It seems to me the same thing was said last year with the release of 'Oliver and Co.' and 'The Land Before Time.'"

While Solomon is critical of Bluth's story-telling abilities, he praises the developments at Disney.

"What excites me is that the new, young animators, who have been in the shadows of the 'Nine Old Men' who made the Disney classics, are now trying to do their own thing," he said. "They're beginning to emerge as artists, developing their own styles and approaches. They're not only influenced by Disney, but by Tex Avery, Chuck Jones and other Warner Bros. and MGM animators."

The 32-year-old Deja is typical of the new Disney breed. As a boy of 10 in West Germany, he saw Disney's "Jungle Book" and decided he wanted to draw cartoons. He applied to the Disney studio and was advised to study draftsmanship, anatomy and other subjects at art school. He did, and was admitted to the Disney training programme in 1980.

He went to England to work under Richard Williams on "Roger Rabbit," drawing Roger, the gorilla, weasel and various Disney characters. Then he returned to California and created Triton for "The Little Mermaid." He is now working on a featurette based on "The Prince and the Pauper."

With its vast resources, Disney can afford to lavish an estimated \$20 million on "The Little Mermaid."

Independent Don Bluth had to find ways to economize on what is essentially a handicraft art. Two years ago he moved his operations to Dublin, Ireland, where he could find tax breaks and a pool of less expensive talent.

The \$13 million "All Dogs Go to Heaven" would have cost \$20 million if it had been made here, Pomeroy said.

Bluth's studio — which he runs with partner Morris Sullivan — employs 400, including 270 Irish, 40 to 50 Americans, many Canadians, and others from Thailand, Korea, Spain and Denmark.

Last year Pomeroy led a troop of returnees to the United States. About 10 per cent of "Dogs" was animated at the firm's studio in the San Fernando Valley. The ratio is expected to be 30 per cent on the next feature, "Rock a



DOG CARTOON: Charlie and Itchy share the spotlight during a musical number in All Dogs Go to Heaven.

Doodle."

Animation may be thriving, but the upsurge isn't reflected at the Motion Picture Screen Cartoonists Guild. Business agent Steve Hulett reports it has 750 members, compared to 2,800 a decade ago.

"Then we were hit by runaway production," he said. "Hanna-Barbera moved its ink-and-paint department and some animation abroad, and other studios followed."

Production first moved to Japan, then to South Korea, the Philippines and elsewhere as countries become more expensive. Some inking and painting of "The Little Mermaid" was done in China.

Despite the flight of jobs, Hulett still sees hope.

"More (animated) pictures in the marketplace brings more production into the marketplace," he said. "I like to think that good wages and good animation can go

hand-in-hand despite producers' attempts to seek cheaper work abroad."

He estimated foreign animators earn \$350 or less a week, compared to the Hollywood minimum of \$900.

A new cost-saving element is computerization. Disney used computers for portions of "Oliver and Co." and "The Little Mermaid," and is expected to do more in the future.

"Computers may eliminate the entire function of ink and paint in the future," Deja said. "But the

job of animation hasn't changed; it still has to be done the same way: by hand, 24 frames a second. So far no computer has been able to produce an animated character."

Meanwhile, Disney plans to surpass its once-a-year animation goal in 1990, releasing the new features "The Rescuers Down Under" and "Duck Tale," as well as the shorts "The Prince and the Pauper" and "Roller Coaster Rabbit," a Roger Rabbit adventure that will appear with Warren Beatty's "Dick Tracy."

Attack on mayor example of limits to free speech

By Elaine Kurtzbach
The Associated Press

TOKYO — The shooting of Nagasaki Mayor Hitoshi Motoshima demonstrates the dangers of exercising the right of free speech in Japan. Criticism of the imperial family can provoke violence from rightist fringe groups.

Motoshima, who stirred a controversy for saying the late Emperor Hirohito bore some responsibility for World War II, was shot in the back and seriously wounded Thursday. Five hours later, police arrested the leader of a rightist group called Seikijuku, or sane thinkers' school, on suspicion of attempted murder and said he had admitted the shooting.

The government and some who have been targets of rightist attacks, including the news media, quickly condemned the incident.

"These sorts of attacks, using violence to curb freedom of speech, are unforgivable," said Osamu Asano, deputy secretary general of the Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association.

"Violence is absolutely unacceptable," he said.

"It's a very regrettable incident. In a democratic nation, any terrorism or violent act should never be permitted, no matter what the reason," said Kozo Watanabe, chairman of the National Safety Commission.

The attack shows the lingering threat from the rightist extremists.

Kazumi Tajiri, 40, a leader of Seikijuku, was on record saying he was willing to kill.

Asked in a 1987 TV Asahi interview if he would kill somebody he hated, Tajiri responded, "Yes, because after all, right-wingers are terrorists." TV Asahi broadcast a tape of the interview after Tajiri was arrested.

Rightists prowled the streets of Tokyo and other cities in large black truck decorated with the rising sun flag of Japan's militaristic past, using powerful loudspeakers to harass their targets — newspapers, embassies, government offices and trading companies — with ear-splitting military music and epithets.

The anti-Communist groups

have scant public support, according to public opinion polls. But their violent reputation often is enough to discourage many Japanese from speaking their minds when threatened.

Executives doing business in socialist countries, especially the Soviet Union, generally refuse to be quoted in the press. Government officials responsible for Japan's relations with the socialist bloc are also reticent.

"If I allowed you to use my name, the trucks would be right outside the doors of our company and maybe even outside my home," said one businessman at a trading company. "They already give us enough trouble."

Motoshima violated the rightists' most sensitive taboo in De-

cember 1988 when he said during a municipal assembly meeting that Hirohito, who died Jan. 7, 1989, at age 87, was partly responsible for the war.

Nagasaki still bears the scars of the war. More than 70,000 people died and thousands more disabled on Aug. 9, 1945, when a U.S. plane dropped an atomic bomb on the city.

Three days earlier, about 140,000 died in Hiroshima, the first city ever to suffer an atomic bomb attack. Japan surrendered six days after the Nagasaki bombing.

Hirohito, who is known posthumously as the Showa emperor, was worshipped as a living god before renouncing his divine status after the war. Rightist extremists

continue to revere the imperial institution and the late emperor.

Motoshima received strong public support; a group of Nagasaki residents sent him petitions with more than 286,000 signatures backing him. But he also got death threats and a storm of criticism, including a procession of right-wing sound trucks around his office.

"Death to Motoshima" was a constant chant. Police said the group whose leader was arrested Thursday was active in the demonstrations against the mayor, who received threatening letters containing bullets. City hall was fired upon last March.

An independent politician supported by the governing conser-

vative Liberal Democratic Party, Motoshima is the 26th important politician in postwar Japan to have suffered an assault, the national police agency says.

The most shocking case came in 1960, when a right-wing student fatally stabbed Japan Socialist Party chairman Inejiro Asanuma at a party rally that was being televised.

Last May, two rightists slightly injured Socialist secretary general Tsuruo Yamaguchi and another Socialist politician at a party gathering.

In keeping with a tradition of macabre threats, a rightist group reportedly sent a severed finger to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's residence in December to protest government debate over funding

ascension ceremonies for Hirohito's son, Emperor Akihito.

Another rightist fired a pistol and barricaded himself inside a tax office near the imperial palace in central Tokyo last July to protest the inheritance tax levied on the emperor's 1.8 billion yen (\$12.9 million) estate. Nobody was injured.

Japanese left-wing extremists have concentrated on attacking Tokyo's international airport in Narita and the imperial family. Leftists recently fired projectiles at the home of Prince Hitachi, emperor Akihito's younger brother, causing some damage but no injuries.

Japanese journalists also have been casualties of rightist attacks.

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Jordan plans crackdown on illegal foreign workers

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's labour minister said Saturday unemployment had hit 20 per cent and he promised tighter controls on 265,000 illegal foreign workers, mainly Egyptians and Syrians.

"Unemployment is now our main worry," Qaseem Obeidat told Reuters. "We hope to cut the number of foreign workers from 300,000 to 200,000 by the end of the year."

He campaign to regulate foreign workers follows last year's exodus of thousands of Egyptians from Iraq, which was trying to save scarce foreign currency and find jobs for Iraqi soldiers demobilised after the Gulf war.

Egypt, Jordan and Iraq are members, along with North Yemen, in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), an 11-month-old economic group. ACC members have agreed to give their own nationals priority in jobs and then to favour citizens of other ACC countries.

Obeidat said up to 60,000 Jordanians, many well-educated, were jobless out of a local workforce of 300,000.

He said about 300,000 foreigners now work in Jordan, including 180,000 Egyptians and 100,000 Syrians. The rest are mainly from Pakistan, India, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

The total had dropped from 380,000 a year ago, mainly because a lower dinar and foreign currency restrictions had made the Kingdom less attractive for foreign workers.

"Only 45,000 of them are working legally," Obeidat said. "So we are going to put some restrictions on them."

He said illegal workers had two months to get work permits or face deportation. The crackdown would exclude about 30,000 foreign labourers in the vital farm sector, in which few Jordanians are prepared to work, Obeidat added.

Jordan raised work permit fees for foreigners in 1988 to 300 dinars (\$450) and stopped renewing permits for foreigners who could be replaced with local labour.

The authorities have also been trying to identify and deport illegal foreign workers. It is not an easy task.

Neither Egyptians nor Syrians need entry visas. Egyptians frequently use Jordan as a transit point to and from Iraq. And

Jordan faces higher cost for imports

AMMAN (Petra) — A decision by the European Community (EC) countries to reduce subsidies on exports has led to adverse results affecting mainly Third World countries, including Jordan, according to a leading Jordanian businessman.

The EC countries have decided to cancel all subsidies on exports by the year 1992 and there is no doubt that such a move is bound to cause another hike in prices of imported European products to Jordan, Elia Nuqul said in an interview here.

Nuqul, who is president of the Jordanian Union of Supply Merchants, said that unless Arab countries took a unified position and practical steps to counter such a move and to promote economic integration in the Arab World, the EC decision would hit hard their economies.

The prices of imported food products have been on the increase all the time in Jordan as a result of other factors as well, Nuqul added. He noted that the rising rate of exchange of European currencies against the dollar has now reached 33 per cent and the increase in the rate of Jordanian customs duty imposed on imported products has now reached 17.8 per cent on top of which the government has recently imposed a two per cent duty on all imports.

Greek premier proposes drastic action for troubled state firms

ATHENS (AP) — Premier Xenophon Zolotas has proposed the drastic overhaul of troubled state companies and drawn the ire of workers in a bid to stop an annual \$700 million drain on the state budget.

He said that non-viable state companies should be liquidated and shares in viable enterprises sold to private interests. He added that would mean retrenchment of about 10,000 employees, sparking a protest from the country's largest labour union.

Zolotas stressed that immediate action was needed, describing the ailing former private companies as "a gaping wound that threatens to become gangrenous and cut off the legs of the economy."

He said these companies had accumulated debts of 600 billion drachmas (\$3.5 billion) and that another 120 billion drachmas (\$700 million) would be added to

this in 1990 if they were "kept alive by artificial means."

Troubled private companies were taken over by the former Socialist government in the '80s in a bid to make them viable. Despite several auctions none of the firms has been sold back to private interests.

The newspaper Ta Nea said Saturday that Zolotas' proposal affected 70 companies.

The General Confederation of Greek Workers, or GSEE, said the proposal was in "complete opposition" to the government's stated objectives.

The GSEE, which boasts about 1.3 million members, has scheduled a nationwide 24-hour strike Thursday.

The prime minister is to discuss his proposal during the week with Conservative, Socialist and Communist Party leaders. He was appointed to head an all-party

government after no party won a clear majority in elections.

In presenting his policy to parliament in November, Zolotas pledged that viable state companies would be supported and that their ownership would not change. He also said that the interests of employees would be protected.

Zolotas also pledged to cut government spending, curb a 14.8 per cent inflation rate and reduce a public sector deficit estimated at \$14.7 billion.

On Friday he said the 10,000 retrenched workers would continue to receive their salaries from a special fund while being training for other jobs.

Zolotas said big banking and investment organisations could function as intermediaries between the state and various domestic and foreign business interests, buying up 30-40 per cent

of these enterprises and overhauling them.

He said that a foreign airline company was prepared to buy 20 per cent of Olympic Airways, Greece's national carrier, and assume the troubled airline's management.

"Of course, I don't know if this can materialise, I am just citing it as an example that indicates there are many possibilities for overhauling our economy," Zolotas told reporters.

Olympic Airways announced an accumulated debt of \$562 million last August.

Labour Minister Apostolos Kaklamanis said Saturday that his ministry had not been informed of the proposed changes in the troubled state companies, and said he found it "inconceivable" that such decisions could be taken without his ministry being consulted.

Analysts doubt Nikkei accuracy

TOKYO (R) — World financial players may have been riveted by the recent gyrations of the Tokyo stock market's key Nikkei index, but some share analysts question just how well it reflects what is happening.

"The Nikkei index is like Father Christmas," said Andrew Ballingall of Barclays De Zoets Wedd (Securities) Japan Ltd., a strategist who is critical of the index. "No one believes in it but everyone is prepared to keep pretending."

The analysts say investors seeking to gauge market performance are now paying closer heed to other indices.

The critics cite two major aspects of the 225-share Nikkei, created by the financial daily newspaper Nihon Keizai Shimbun in 1950, as problematic.

First, there has been little change in the composition of the 225 shares which make up the index, except to account for mergers, bankruptcies or a major event such as the 1987 listing of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp, the world's largest

company in terms of market capitalisation.

Included in the index along with such well-known firms as Toshiba and Toyota are a host of obscure companies.

"It represents what the market was like 20 years ago," said Paul Migliorato, a Jardine Fleming Securities equities salesman.

But an even bigger problem is the index's susceptibility to manipulation and volatility because it is price-weighted rather than market-capital-weighted, the analysts say.

The Nikkei is calculated by adding up the prices of one share of each company in the index and dividing by a constant figure.

In contrast, the Topix index for all 1,165 first section issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange is calculated by market-capital-weighted means.

This is done by working out the market's total capitalisation and dividing by a figure which represents the capitalisation on Jan. 4, 1968.

The Nikkei can be affected more easily than the Topix by

dealings in a relatively small number of issues which are thinly traded but highly priced, the analysts said.

"The movements of high-priced shares that don't really reflect the market has a big impact on the Nikkei," said Takasaki Yoda, a senior portfolio manager at Daiwa International Capital Management.

"That means trade in such issues to a certain extent makes the movement of the Nikkei speculative and artificial, and in that sense it is difficult for the Nikkei to reflect the overall market situation," Yoda added.

Such movements have become particularly apparent since the introduction of futures trading in 1988, and the resulting arbitrage between markets.

The spread of passively managed index-linked funds have also had an impact.

Brokers said the Nikkei was artificially boosted by arbitrage in December. That month the Nikkei rose 4.4 per cent while Topix gained only 1.8 per cent.

In the whole of 1989 the Nikkei outperformed Topix by close to seven per cent, analysts said.

Brokers also said the Nikkei's downward spiral since early this year was triggered by the unwinding of futures-related positions.

The 5.31 per cent fall in the Nikkei from the start of trade on Jan. 4 through Jan. 16 was, however, more closely mirrored by a 5.02 per cent slump in the Topix as selling spread throughout the market.

Despite the criticisms, many analysts said the sheer longevity of the Nikkei is a plus.

"It would be difficult to change its content or calculation method because then it would lose comparability with the past," said Yoda.

And most say that whatever its failings, there is unlikely to be a change in the Nikkei's composition soon.

"There is no such thing as a perfect index which totally mirrors market conditions," said an official at the databank bureau of Nihon Keizai Shimbun, which oversees the index.

U.S. oil output suffers biggest decline

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. crude oil production last year recorded its biggest decline ever while oil imports reached a 10-year high, the American Petroleum Institute (API) has reported.

The institute, a trade association of the major oil companies, also said that although U.S. oil consumption increased only slightly, imports rose to 46 per cent of total supplies. That was the second-highest level on record.

In releasing the data, Edward Murphy, an API official, said the production and import trends were "very disturbing and should be a focus of national concern."

The figures confirm a continued decline of the domestic oil industry and are expected to add heat to a debate in Congress this year over whether exploration and production companies should get new tax breaks to stimulate drilling activity.

The administration of President George Bush has argued that declining U.S. oil production and increasing reliance on foreign producers is undermining national energy security.

In its year-end report, the petroleum institute said U.S. crude oil production averaged 7.6 million barrels a day in 1989. That was the lowest in 26 years and a record decline of 553,000 barrels

per day from the 1988 total.

The previous biggest decline in domestic oil output was 474,000 barrels per day in 1949.

Alaskan oil production, which had increased almost every year since the start of production from the huge Prudhoe Bay field in 1977, fell by 140,000 barrels per day in 1989.

The report said the Alaska decline was exaggerated by maintenance work and traffic restrictions following the Exxon Valdez oil tanker spill last March, and that the "underlying decline trend" in Alaska was about 100,000 barrels per day.

Oil imports rose to 7.9 million barrels a day last year, up 8.2 per cent from 1988 and nearly 60 per cent above the 1985 level, when imports sank to a low of five million barrels a day before prices collapsed on the world market in 1986.

The report said that while imports from Western hemisphere sources still accounted for about 43 per cent of total imports in 1989, imports from the Arabian Gulf continued to grow to 21 per cent of the total.

Imports accounted for 46 per cent of oil consumed in the United States last year. That was the second-highest ever, after the 47.7 per cent level of 1977. As recently as 1985, imports' share of domestic consumption was

only 31.5 per cent.

The rise in total U.S. energy consumption last year slowed to 1.9 per cent after increases of 3.5 per cent in 1987 and 4.0 per cent in 1988, the report said.

Murphy, API's director of finance, accounting and statistics,

told a news conference, "I believe that it is particularly noteworthy that the increase in imports was driven not by increases in consumption, which has been the most important factor until last year, but by decreases in domestic production."

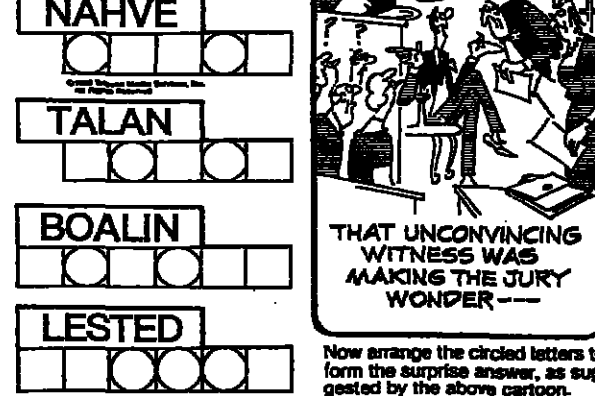
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Santa forgot to bring me Farrah Fawcett again."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Amok and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: WHAT "O O O O" (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumble: GAILY SWISH GRAVEN CALIPH Answer: They resided on the roof because they loved this—"HIGH LIVING"

Hungary suspends export permits for rouble trade

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary has suspended all licences for exports denominated in roubles in what looked like a bid to divert goods away from the Soviet-led trade bloc Comecon and earn hard currency to help ease its debt burden.

The trade ministry said it would review and revise all export licences and contracts for the trade in non-convertible roubles on a case by case basis, Hungary's MTI news agency said.

Hungary, one of the most advanced of East Bloc nations now on the road to a market economy, is struggling to finance a \$20 billion debt, the highest per capita in Eastern Europe.

About half its exports go to the

rouble area and it has chalked up a huge rouble surplus.

Trade Minister Tamas Beck said the surplus was too much of a burden for Hungary's ailing economy and was tantamount to an interest-free loan.

"What happens in effect is that Hungary actually finances rouble exports with Western loans obtained with growing difficulties," MTI quoted him as saying.

According to preliminary figures, Hungary registered a rouble trade surplus of more than one billion roubles (\$1.6 billion) last year.

MTI said the surplus in just the first two weeks of this month reached a "dramatic" 250 million roubles (\$410 million).

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Libya eyes Egyptian farmers

ABU DHABI (R) — Libya plans to attract Egyptian farmers to settle in its southern region with offers of land, a Gulf newspaper said Sunday. The Sharjah-based Al Khaleej quoted Libyan Planning Minister Mohammad Lofth Farhat as saying he had discussed settlement of Egyptians in a two million hectare (five million acre) area in southern Libya with Egyptian officials last week. "We will soon embark on plans to create conditions for the settlement of Egyptians in Kufra, Sabha and southern valleys to cultivate land," he said. Farhat said Libya would also seek Egyptian expertise for water projects in the Benghazi plain and in an area bordering Egypt and Sudan. A contract for a rail link between the Egyptian port of Mersa Matruh and Tobruk would be awarded to an Egyptian or another Arab company "even if its bid is higher than foreign bids," he added.

Riyadh boasts very low inflation

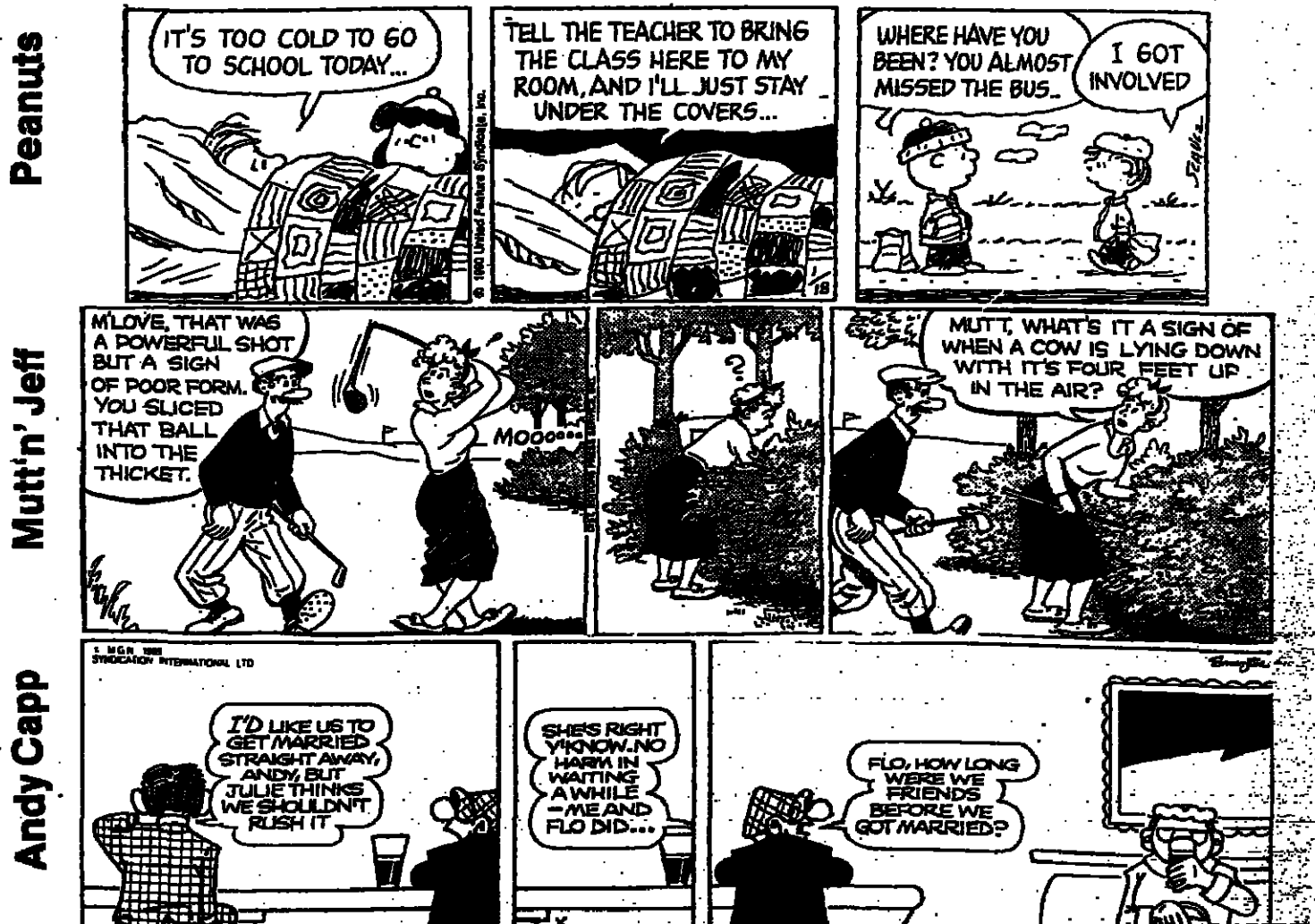
NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia's inflation rate is less than one per cent, according to Commerce Minister Suleiman Abzul Aziz Al Salim. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted Salim as telling Saudi television that the low inflation was a result of the kingdom's open market policies. "The kingdom's inflation is less than one per cent and that is because of its open-market policy, free trade and honest competition..." SPA quoted him as saying. Salim said Saudi Arabia was one of the cheapest places in the world in which to live, adding that inflation had dropped steadily since 1983. He did not say how high the kingdom's inflation rate had been then. King Fahd last month announced Saudi Arabia's annual budget for 1990, saying revenue was expected to rise by 1.7 per cent to 118 billion riyals (\$31.5 billion).

Inflation stays unchanged in U.K.

LONDON (R) — Britain's inflation rate remained unchanged in December at 7.7 per cent, but economic analysts said the country still faced strong inflationary pressures. Prices rose just 0.3 per cent in December, government figures showed, compared with market forecasts of a 0.4 per cent climb and a rise in the annual rate of 7.9 per cent. "It's welcome news but the inflationary pressure is still on," said analyst Neil Mackinnon on Yamaichi International. "It's an inflation rate that's still considerably higher than the rates prevailing in Europe, so the authorities can't let up on interest rates," he noted. The government raised bank base interest rates in a series of steps from 7.5 to 15 per cent between mid-1988 and last October in a bid to prevent the economy overheating and to bring out inflation. But the cost of living has remained stubbornly high, declining only slowly from its peak of 8.3 per cent last May and June. Friday's figures left inflation averaging 7.8 per cent for the whole of 1989, up from 4.9 per cent the previous year.

Panama appeals for U.S. aid

PANAMA CITY (AP) — President Guillermo Endara has appealed for foreign help to rebuild Panama's economy. In a speech to the Civic Crusade, an umbrella group for opponents of ousted dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega, Endara said unemployment is Panama's most pressing problem. Without giving any figures, he said 33 per cent of the labour force was unemployed. "But the most important ingredient will be our own work and the adjustments needed to make out economy competitive again," Endara said. The Panamanian president said he had written to U.S. President George Bush outlining Panama's economic needs. The United States has expressed a willingness to help Panama, but has declined to give figures on how much aid money will be forthcoming.



'Customers Come First'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Twenty one executives from Inter-Continental Hotels worldwide are currently meeting at the Hotel Jordan Intercontinental for a week long seminar on customer focused service.

The participants include five Jordanians representing the Jordan Intercontinental, the Amra Forum and the Petra Forum. The programme is called "Customers Come First" and participants will qualify as leaders for their hotels.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, January 21, 1990				
Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	655.0	661.0	French franc	112.5 113.6
Pound Sterling	1076.0	1086.8	Japanese yen (for 100)	448.3 452.8
Deutschmark	382.2	386.0	Dutch guilder	339.4 342.8
Swiss franc	429.8	434.1	Swedish crown	104.9 105.9
			Italian lire (for 100)	51.4 51.9
			Belgian franc (for 10)	182.6 184.4

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
A TASHMAN BRIDGE
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IN GRAND STYLE

Book vulnerable. South deals.

WEST
 ♠ 7 3
 ♥ J 6 4 2
 ♦ 7 4
 ♣ J 10 6

EAST
 ♠ 9 5 5 2
 ♥ Q 10 8 3
 ♦ 3
 ♣ 7 5 3 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q J 10
 ♥ Vold
 ♦ A K Q 10 6 5 2
 ♣ A K

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
 7 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠
 You could look through all the bridge books in your library without finding a single clue on how you should bid this hand. That's because bridge writers concentrate on describing how to bid the sort of hand that crops up with considerable frequency, rather than a once-in-a-lifetime holding.

Our own preferences would be to show the spade suit after the two-heart response, but we can't fault

South for electing to rebid a solid seven-card suit first. North correctly as the trump suit by raising diamonds, and South, obviously a bit of a plunger, decided to end the auction by guessing on a grand slam in diamonds.

West led the queen of clubs, taken in the closed hand. At first glance it might seem that declarer is going to need the spade finesse for the fulfilling trick. That might well turn out to be necessary, but there is another chance that declarer tested first.

South led a diamond to dummy's eight and ruffed a heart high. Another trump to the nine drew the last enemy fast and provided the entry to cash the ace and king of hearts for two spade discards, followed by another heart ruff.

Had the heart suit not divided evenly, declarer would have had to cross back to the board with the last trump and try the spade finesse. However, this was his lucky day. Hearts were 4-4, and a long heart was established in dummy. The jack of diamonds provided the entry, and declarer was able to discard the queen of spades, thus making the slam without having to resort to a finesse.

THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen

ACROSS

1. Conclude from evidence

10. Old sailor

14. Chess's ruler

15. Refuse

17. Hart

18. Small drink

20. Calt

22. Demagogue

23. Think of

24. Kiss with

27. Turn inside out

28. Condemned

29. Weakest link

32. Summer living area

33. "The night before"

34. Dig for pay dirt

35. Playwright Clifford

36. Worker or station

37. Jupiter's weapon

38. Antidote

39. Small dog for short

40. Chorus words

41. Notable

42. Period

43. Be concerned

44. Plot

45. Knowledge

46. Guarded

48. Date

49. Riddle

50. Medical drink

52. Domesticated

56. Escape

57. High-strung

58. Art

59. Great

60. Web-footed mammal

61. Seline

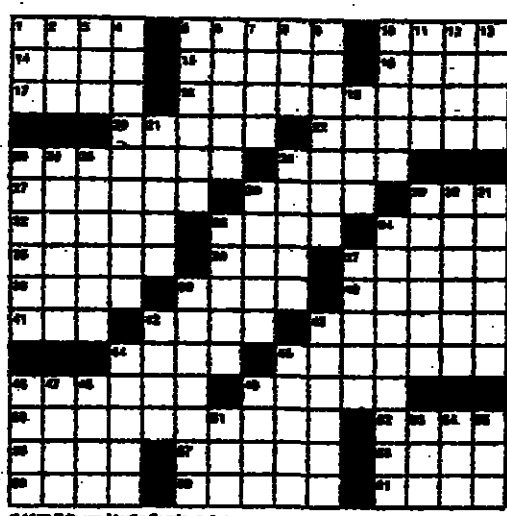
DOWN

1. Soundless

2. How - you?

3. Pervasive the punch

4. Tugboat drink



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Yesterday's Puzzle Answer:

1. Conclude from evidence
 10. Old sailor
 14. Chess's ruler
 15. Refuse
 17. Hart
 18. Small drink
 20. Calt
 22. Demagogue
 23. Think of
 24. Kiss with
 27. Turn inside out
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 46. Guarded
 48. Date
 49. Riddle
 50. Medical drink
 52. Domesticated
 56. Escape
 57. High-strung
 58. Art
 59. Great
 60. Web-footed mammal
 61. Seline

5. Pushes forward
 6. Caplans
 7. Fish peddler
 8. So, queen
 9. Springs back
 10. "Mama"
 11. "I said"
 12. "Over"
 13. "Syrup"
 14. Paris airport
 15. Chalk volcano
 16. Deal
 17. Dodge
 18. "I"
 19. Winged
 20. Up
 21. Barney Miller
 22. Looked at closely
 23. "Over"
 24. Whiskey and drink
 25. Sulfur the punch
 26. Inched in
 27. Wood
 28. Carry on
 29. Ram into
 30. Assassin
 31. Lax
 32. Fuzz
 33. River to North Sea
 34. Rebuff
 35. Meaty part
 36. Carry on
 37. Ram into
 38. Chin
 39. Quiff
 40. Gym pad
 41. River to North Sea

IAAF chief calls for comeback of Johnson

TOKYO (R) — Primo Nebiolo, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), called on Sunday for a comeback to competition by Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson.

Johnson was stripped at this weekend's IAAF council meeting of his world records and the 1987 world championships 100 metres gold medal.

Nebiolo told reporters "we wish Johnson to be back because we have always followed his activities with great attention."

He said that whether Johnson can run again will depend on the Canadian athletic federation after Johnson's two-year suspension imposed by the IAAF for using banned anabolic steroids ends this September.

"If the Canadians will agree to give him (Johnson) permission, we would be very happy to see Johnson compete tomorrow," said Nebiolo, who attended a two-day meeting of the IAAF council in Tokyo.

The 28-year-old sprinter, who emigrated with his family from Jamaica to Canada in 1976, was

stripped of his gold medal in the Seoul Olympic 100 metres after testing positive for the banned drug Stanozolol.

During the Tokyo meeting, the 23-member council decided to wipe out Johnson's three world records, in the 100 metres and the indoor's 50 and 60 metres, as well as the women's indoor 50 metres mark held by his compatriot Angela Issajenko.

Both Johnson and Issajenko have admitted taking banned drugs since 1981 and 1979 respectively.

Last September the IAAF voted to take records away from holders who testify under oath that they used drugs when the records were established and erase records even if the athletes passed dope tests at the meetings.

It also decided to amend the result of the 100 metres in the 1987 world championships in Rome, listing American Carl Lewis as the winner in 9.93 seconds, Ray Stewart of Jamaica second in 10.08 and Linford Christie of Britain third in 10.14.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JANUARY 22, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An indifferent sort of day but one in which you can make some headway by being very practical. Make a point to engage in services or studies of your choice.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't spend a lot of money but you will be able to make interesting new plans to add to your income. A new approach in romance is advisable.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You will now be able to make some interesting friendships with some very important persons. This is the day when you should change your attitude.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Avoid any behind the scenes commitments that can later arise to upset you. New friends who have dynamic ideas will help you to attain your social objectives.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your friends now will be most pleased with you if you invite them to your home for a meal. Deciding which of two persons you like the most will upset you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You will have so much constructive progress socially and with friends today that you can accomplish a great deal.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Accept a social invitation given by a woman for it can help you very much personally. It is now a good time to make long term plans with your attachment.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You will have two projects in

which you can make more money. A surprise present to your attachment will bring a wonderful response.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Associate more at pleasure and recreation with younger persons if want to have a good time. Don't get upset because your attachment breaks a promise about money.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Most anything that you do of a social nature today is almost bound to be successful. A new proposition brought by influential men from afar is for you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Friends and charming associates will both help you to solve money matters that concern you. A woman who is charming can get in the way of your social life.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A wonderful day for you to go out on the town with mate for a wonderful time. All kinds of ideas are present for a marvelous vacation.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) The effort that you put into your business projects will have long term beneficial results. You now feel very caring and loving so let your mate know it.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will be highly effective as a youngster who won't be able to get enough of this world's goods. They will require both comfort and necessities but should be directed against getting wrapped up in money pursuits.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN:

Lendl, Graf advance to the quarterfinals

MELBOURNE (AP) — Defending champions Ivan Lendl and Steffi Graf overcame unusually sloppy play Sunday, while American amateur sensation Angelika Gavaldon kept rolling to reach the quarterfinals in the Australian Open.

Gavaldon, an effervescent 16-year-old from California who entered as a qualifier ranked 192nd in the world, upset 15th-seeded Gigi Fernandez 6-3, 1-6, 6-2.

Gavaldon, who takes high school correspondence courses, is playing her first professional tournament outside the United States and is the youngest player left in the year's first grand slam tennis tournament.

She beat former two-time champion Hana Mandlikova in the third round and next meets West Germany's Claudia Porwik,

who beat South African Dinky van Rensburg 7-6, 3-6, 6-4.

Lendl had 46 errors, yet never was threatened in beating Simon Youl of Australia 6-1, 6-3, 6-1.

Graf started with an ace and ended with another one to notch her 45th straight victory, 6-2, 6-3 over 13th-seed Raffaella Reggi of Italy.

Helena Sukova, who lost the 1989 final against Graf, ended the surprising surge of Japan's Kimiko Date 6-4, 6-3.

Unseeded Soviet Andrei Cherkasov upset number nine Andres Gomez of Ecuador 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (8-6), 7-6, (7-5).

Graf was in control of her match throughout, but was annoyed by an unusually high 28 unforced errors.

"I have a lot left to improve,"

Graf said. "I need to find my right timing and I'm making too many errors."

Graf's winning streak is one shy of her 46-match streak in 1988, which included titles in the French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. She also won the Australian that year to start her grand slam. Martina Navratilova holds the winning streak record of 74 matches.

Date, who knocked out Pam Shriver in the third round, said she pulled a back muscle while warming up for Sukova on Sunday.

"I hoped to win two rounds in the tournament, and I accomplished that and more, so I have to be pleased," said the 19-year-old Date.

A lucky net cord and an injury

to a rival have out Zina Garrison of the United States on a path that could lead to her first grand slam final.

These are nervous times for Garrison and other players at the Australian Open as they tip-toe cautiously on sticky courts suddenly hit by an injury jinx.

Boris Becker is complaining. Graf thinks the courts are dangerous. Gabriela Sabatini is out with torn ligaments in her ankle. Mark Woodforde is in the hospital facing possible surgery on his severed ankle ligaments.

Other players have fallen, and now everyone is worried.

Garrison, the women's number three seed and the biggest threat to Graf now that Sabatini is out, had visions of disaster as she lay on the spongy rebound ace Centre Court Saturday night.

McEnroe defaulted amid angry scenes

MELBOURNE (R) — John McEnroe's stormy career plummeted to new depths on Sunday when he was sensationally thrown out of the Australian Open championships for swearing at tournament officials.

The three-time Wimbledon champion was disqualified in the fourth set of his fourth round match with Sweden's Mikael Pernfors when leading by two sets to one in front of a stunned Centre Court crowd at the National Tennis Centre.

ATP tour supervisor Farrar was adamant that the right decision had been taken. "It was a serious, verbal abuse attack on a referee and a supervisor and a chair umpire and there was no question in my mind he should be defaulted," Farrar said.

It was deeply ironic that McEnroe should finally step over the

edge only days after declaring that he was pleased with the way he was controlling his temper at the open.

But it was, a contrite McEnroe said afterwards, too soon to decide how this would affect his future plans.

"It's really early to say. I was defaulted about 10 minutes ago and I don't feel good about it. A year from now it might be different, who knows."

It was believed to be the first time in grand slam singles history that a player has been defaulted for bad behaviour.

McEnroe and his erstwhile men's doubles partner Peter Fleming were, however, defaulted from the 1986 U.S. Open for lack of punctuality.

McEnroe was given his marching orders after incurring three code violations.

In the third set, he was warned for unsportsmanlike behaviour when he glared threateningly at a female line judge who had just given a tight line call against him.

Then, with Pernfors up 3-2 in the fourth set, the 30-year-old American smashed his racket on the court in front of him, causing it to bounce above his head.

That gave Pernfors the sixth game of the set and was the signal for McEnroe's final, fatal explosion.

Rounding on Farrar and tournament referee Peter Bellenager, he fired off a torrent of abuse which Farrar later described as some of the worst language he had ever heard.

It proved the final straw and, after a quick discussion, Farrar and Bellenager instructed chair umpire Gerry Armstrong to issue a default.

The decision provoked howls of disbelief from the capacity crowd who changed McEnroe's name for 10 minutes after he left the court.

He was later fined \$500 for racket abuse, \$5,000 for verbal abuse and a further \$1,000 for

being defaulted. But he will be allowed to keep his \$26,000 prize money for reaching the fourth round.

A pale-faced but initially unrepentant McEnroe claimed at first he was not aware of the recent change to the ATP rules which now state that a third code of conduct warning, not the fourth as in the past, will bring disqualification.

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Demonstrators demand independence

20 killed, scores injured in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (R) — At least 20 people were killed and scores injured Sunday after Indian troops were ordered to shoot on sight to enforce a curfew in Kashmir, police said.

Thousands of demonstrators thronged Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir State, shouting pro-independence slogans and reciting Koranic verses, defying a curfew imposed since December, witnesses said.

They were met by steel-helmeted troops, some in armoured personnel carriers, firing guns and teargas.

Police said troops in some quarters of the city had come under fire from militants among the protesters.

Officials said it was the worst outbreak of violence in India's only Muslim-majority state which has been torn by an increasingly powerful secessionist movement for almost two years.

Rioting broke out in the city Saturday after Indian security forces raided homes, arrested at least 300 people and threatened to shoot curfew-breakers on sight in a new crackdown on revolt.

Late Saturday night militants broadcast over loudspeakers on Srinagar's mosques urging people to defy the curfew and go into the streets to protest against the crackdown.

Witnesses said much of the city's population of 800,000 appeared to have turned out.

The clashes coincided with a visit to New Delhi by Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan beginning Monday which is expected to focus on the deteriorating situation in Kashmir, a strategic valley wedged between India, China and Pakistan.

Farooq Abdullah, who resigned in anger Friday, as chief

minister of Jammu and Kashmir, said he had been resisting pressure to give central government forces search and arrest powers.

India's new National Front government has appointed a new governor, Jagmohan, Friday.

Jagmohan, who was sacked as governor in July by former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, immediately declared governor's rule. This allows him to administer the state on Delhi's behalf.

The new orders to the central government's paramilitary and army troops to conduct house-to-house searches and shoot curfew violators were apparently issued by the new governor.

At least two people were killed and 14 injured in Saturday's violence.

On Sunday violent mobs set fire to a government office and a wooden bridge in Srinagar and two bombs exploded in the city. But there were no casualties, police officials said.

Government-run radio and television repeatedly appealed to people to go home, assuring them there would be no more house searches or arrests.

The curfew was imposed on Srinagar in December after the valley's best known militant group, the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), kidnapped the daughter of Indian Home (Interior) Minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

She was freed only after the state government released five jailed members of the JKLF.

India alleges Islamabad is helping militants campaigning for in-

dependence or a merger with Pakistan and the issue will be at the centre of Khan's talks in New Delhi. Pakistan denies it aids the militants.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars since 1947 over Kashmir. Indian and Pakistani forces ranged on both sides of a United Nations-supervised ceasefire line complicate the issue and occasionally exchange fire.

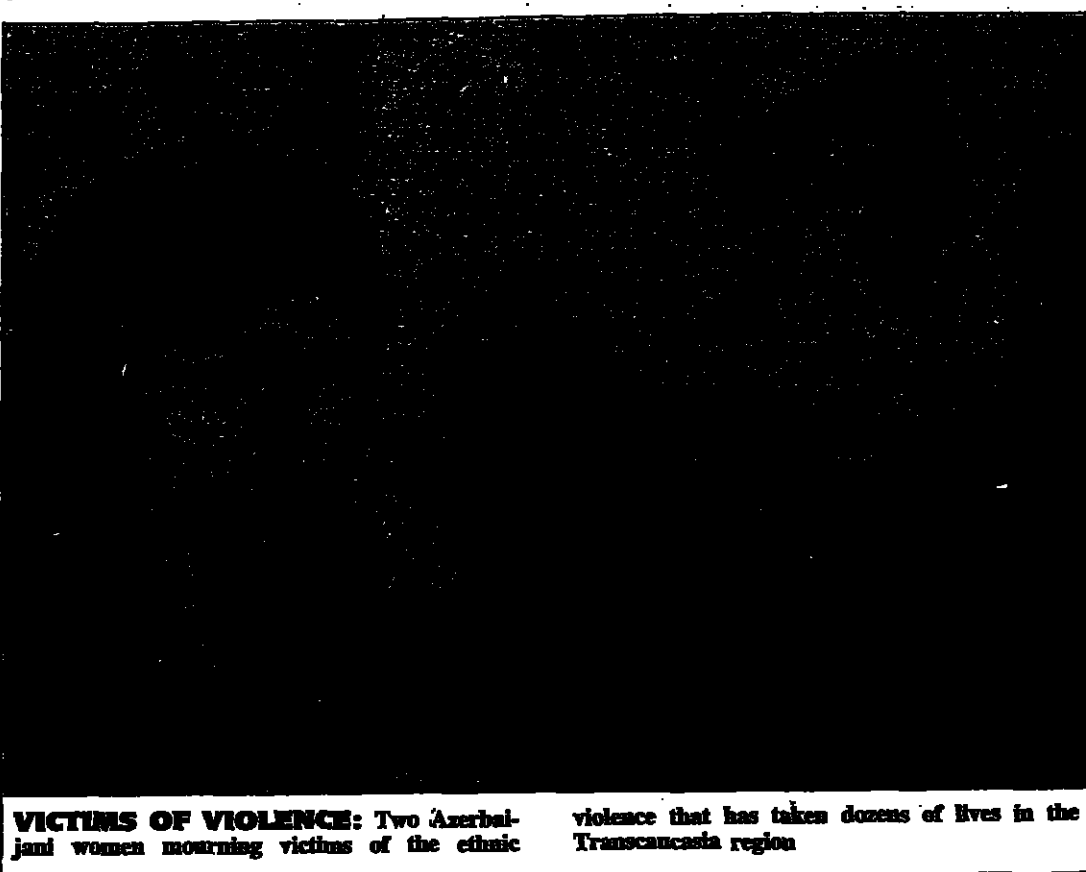
India controls two thirds of the valley and Pakistan the remainder. The United Nations says Delhi must allow Kashmiris to vote on whether they want to stay a part of India, become independent or join Pakistan.

India has well over 100,000 troops stationed in Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi-based diplomats said. But senior Indian military sources said that even that force would need substantial reinforcement to crush the militant movement.

The JKLF's popularity will be tested by a general strike it has called for Monday to coincide with Khan's visit. It has also declared next Friday, India's Republic Day, a "black day" and told Srinagar residents to stay indoors and keep their lights turned off.

The militants carry out almost daily bomb attacks on public buildings and a JKLF ally called "Allah's Tigers" has forced all bars and nearly all wine and liquor shops to close in Kashmir.

In Srinagar's old city local police refuse to take down Pakistani and JKLF flags fluttering from lamp posts. State officials say New Delhi ordered the new governor to investigate the Kashmiri police force and weed out policemen thought to be sympathetic to the militants.



VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE: Two Azerbaijani women mourning victims of the ethnic violence that has taken dozens of lives in the Transcaucasian region.

Party expels Krenz

WEST BERLIN (AP) — The East German Communist Party expelled ousted leader Egon Krenz from the embattled organization, the official news agency ADN said Sunday.

Krenz took over from hardline leader Erich Honecker Oct. 18 and was thrown out of power six weeks later as protests and dissent wracked the troubled nation.

ADN said that 13 other members and candidate members of the former ruling politburo were also expelled along with Krenz.

Honecker and several other members of his old guard were kicked out of the party in December, as the current leadership blames its predecessors for abuses and corruption of the past.

Eight former politburo members are in prison awaiting trial. Honecker, who is not incarcerated, is targeted for an indictment for high treason along with his jailed former secret police chief Erich Mielke.

Earlier, the Communist leadership had rejected calls from several inside factions to break up the party. That came during an all-day session Saturday at the party headquarters in East Berlin.

Also Sunday, ADN said prosecutors had opened a criminal investigation against Finance Minister Uta Nickel.

Nickel is accused of having been involved in "illegal payments" in her former post as member of the state Finance and Price Council in Leipzig, ADN said. It did not provide further information about the allegations.



Egon Krenz

East German Communist Party chief Gregor Gysi called for "radical reform and consolidation" of the embattled party early Sunday.

The statement came after the marathon session that started Saturday morning and lasted until nearly midnight.

After Saturday's session, Gysi said: "Radical reform and consolidation are standing further in the forefront for the Communist Party, not the election campaign."

The Communists are facing stiff competition in elections set for May 6.

"Party leaders decided during the day-long session to use their powers in the interest of the people and the country and less for the party," Gysi added.

"That's designed to counteract the growing polarisation among the people."

More mass demonstrations were reported around the country on Saturday, state television said.

About 5,000 doctors and other medical personnel demonstrated for higher wages and better working conditions in East Berlin.

In the southern city of Plauen, about 35,000 people took to the streets against the Communists, while 10,000 farmers rallied in the city of Neubrandenburg to demand higher prices for their products.

Krenz, 52, had for many years overseen the hated Stasi security police, now being disbanded. He was seen as a hardliner whom Honecker had nurtured and chosen to succeed him.

After Honecker fell last October following a massive exodus of East Germans to the West and huge demonstrations on the streets, Krenz took over and adopted a more reformist image.

His politburo included figures long banished to the provinces or the middle ranks because of their reformist views.

Krenz opened the borders to the West that had remained firmly shut since the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961 and finally agreed to abolish the Communists' monopoly on power.

This proved too little, too late to remove the taint of his Stalinst past and he was forced from office on Dec. 6.

Since losing his state posts, Krenz has been living in a government residence in a quiet suburb of East Berlin.

Aquino: No snap elections

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino has turned down opposition calls for a snap election in the Philippines, telling her rivals to wait until scheduled presidential polls in 1992 to get a crack at power.

In her weekly radio broadcast Sunday Aquino also said she was determined to prosecute a provincial governor who backed last month's army coup and defied her orders to step down.

He was forcibly evicted from office Saturday to face charges of rebellion.

"The constitution says the next presidential elections will be held in May 1992. Those who want to be president should run in 1992 and be chosen by our people, and not be installed through force or by calling snap elections," she said.

Aquino was swept to power in 1986 when President Ferdinand Marcos was overthrown in a popular revolt sparked by charges of voting fraud after he called a snap election to get a fresh mandate.

Last week's visit to Manila by U.S. President George Bush's security adviser, Robert Gates, triggered speculation in the local press that he would suggest snap elections to defuse the political crisis facing her government.

Aquino, who survived the sixth and most serious coup attempt against her last month, has been meeting young army officers to hear their grievances and fend off future revolts.

"I instructed them to remain true and loyal to the constitution," she said Sunday. "I told them the country is depending on them to remain loyal to the constitution."

Aquino said the government would take "a very firm position" in prosecuting Cagayan Provincial Governor Rodolfo Aguirre whom she had ordered suspended for backing the coup.

"This government is determined to bring to justice those who have betrayed our country," she said.

Opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, a close ally of Aguirre, faces similar charges and Aquino said 14 officers including two generals were being investigated and could be charged with mutiny and murder before military courts.

Riot troops dispersed about 500 supporters of Aguirre in the provincial capital Tuguegarao, 340 kilometres north of Manila Saturday before installing acting governor Melvin Vargas.

Mongolians defy government ban, demonstrate for change

ULAN BATOR (R) — Thousands of Mongolians defied a government ban on demonstrations Sunday and massed in a central Ulan Bator square to demand human rights, freedom and sweeping political changes.

About 7,000 demonstrators, braving extreme cold, crowded around a rostrum in the centre of Sukhbaatar Square to cheer leaders of an opposition group as they made anti-government speeches.

"The prime minister and the deputy prime minister are responsible for the terrible state of affairs," the leader of the dissident group declared.

It is the fourth time protesters have flocked to the square since early December last year. The government banned unauthorised protests last Thursday.

Fanjansuren Zorig, leader of the opposition Mongolian Democratic Union, told the crowd the ban on demonstrations was unconstitutional and undemocratic.

"You have come here on your own, not because you were forced but because you wanted to come," Zorig, a lecturer at Mongolian state university, shouted into a microphone on the

rostrum.

"This is a truly democratic movement," he said to cheers from protesters, who were wrapped in furs and padded gowns.

Security appeared lax, although a few uniformed police and army officers mingled with the crowd. Some security personnel filmed demonstrators with antiquated cine-cameras.

Demonstrators held banners calling for an end to special privileges for the Communist Party elite and for a five-day work week.

Zorig and other dissident leaders stopped short of demanding the overthrow of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party. He said the government had agreed to recognise the Democratic Union.

Isolated Mongolia, wedged between China and the Soviet Union, is three times the size of France but with little more than two million people. After the Soviet Union it was the first nation to declare itself a Communist state.

Western diplomats in Ulan Bator said the Democratic Union

was the biggest challenge to Mongolia's leadership in recent history.

Last Sunday about 5,000 people participated in Mongolia's biggest demonstration in recent history.

The fledgling democracy movement was born only about one month ago, encouraged by the crumbling of communism in Eastern Europe. Its first official meeting was on Dec. 10, according to one diplomat.

Diplomats estimate the union has a membership of about 60,000 people while the Communist Party has 90,000.

State radio quoted government ideology chief D. Tshilzhzhap saying Thursday: "We want dialogue, not confrontation or violence."

Under 63-year-old leader Zhambyn Batmunkh the government has adopted cautious reforms encouraged by its long-time ally the Soviet Union.

Last week authorities removed one of two statues of Stalin standing in Ulan Bator. One large statue of the late Soviet dictator remains in front of the city library.

Singh says disaster settlement will be scrapped

BHOPAL (AP) — Prime Minister V.P. Singh told survivors of the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster Sunday that his government would scrap the \$470-million settlement with Union Carbide.

He also announced before a crowd estimated at 100,000 people that his government would pursue criminal charges and the \$3 billion originally sought the U.S.-based multinational.

We believe there can be no deal over human corpses," Singh said, referring to the settlement accepted last year by the Indian supreme court and the government of then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Huge crowds greeted Singh on his first visit to Bhopal, where more than 3,000 people were reported killed or fatally injured Dec. 3, 1984, when poison gas leaked from a Union Carbide storage tank nearby.

A flower garland was draped around Singh's neck and people in the crowd knelt to touch his feet as the prime minister walked among huts of bamboo, mud brick and cardboard in the shantytown near the now-closed plant.

At the huge public rally, Singh declared: "We have decided to do away with the settlement and pursue the \$3-billion suit against the company and also the crim-

inal suit against UCC (Union Carbide Corporation) officials."

He promised that his government would provide interim relief to all persons affected by the tragedy, saying the money to be paid would be determined within a month.

"We must look at the Bhopal gas tragedy as a national disaster and involve all organisations to provide succor to the survivors," Singh declared.

The prime minister, who took over from Gandhi on Dec. 2, did not provide specifics as to how his government would reopen the legal case in the world's deadliest industrial disaster.

Last Feb. 15, the suprecourt accepted a \$470 million settlement as "final and final" in connection with a government lawsuit, which had been dragging through the Indian courts for about four years.

The Gandhi government had originally sought \$3 billion in damages and later filed criminal negligence charges against top officials of Union Carbide and its local subsidiary, Union Carbide of India Ltd.

When Union Carbide and the Gandhi government agreed on the lesser amount of \$470 million, the supreme court absolved the Danbury, Connecticut-based company of further civil or cri-



V.P. Singh

iminal liability.

Singh later told a news conference his government was determined to revive the suit against Union Carbide and that future legal action would depend on a review now under way in the supreme court.

"Human life and criminal liability cannot be compromised," Singh said.

Under Indian law, the \$470 million settlement is subject to review if challenged. Gas victims and activist groups have filed challenges in the courts based on two major grounds:

— That the Gandhi government had no right to declare itself the sole representative of all claims arising from the Bhopal gas disaster.

— That the compensation of \$470 million was inadequate.

Marcos' mother buried after 20-month wake

BATAK, Philippines (Agencies) — The body of Ferdinand Marcos' mother was temporarily entombed Sunday, 20 months after she died, ending a vigil by supporters of the late president who had hoped mother and son could be reunited in death.

Marcos supporters used the entombment of Josefa Edralin-Marcos, who died May 4, 1968 at age 95, to denounce the government of President Corason Aquino and to call for national reconciliation.

About 1,000 people, including local officials, gathered at the body of Mrs. Edralin-Marcos was placed in a glass-and-wood structure behind the Marcos family home, where she had been lying in state.

"We don't want a political colour to this ceremony," said the Rev. Domingo Nebres, who had officiated at the entombment of Marcos in Hawaii last October.

"We want a loving tribute to Dona Josefa. ...she is a woman

who did not construct monuments that can be destroyed later but was the mother of a president who served us for 20 years to protect our country from communist hands."

Nebres recited a message from Marcos' widow, Imelda, thanking people in this Marcos stronghold for "accompanying my beloved momma" to her resting place.

Marcos died in exile in Hawaii last September and Aquino has barred a homeland burial for him, saying it might provoke violence.

"We want to bury them side by side," said Marcos' elder brother, Pacifico. "We are praying very hard that the authority would change her heart to allow my brother's remains to return from Hawaii."

Marcos, his family and opposition leaders had used the body as a political weapon to persuade Aquino to allow Marcos to return and bury her.

Aquino refused and the corpse lost its political significance when Marcos died.

The heavily made-up corpse, its hair swept back by a Spanish comb, showed no signs of decomposition.

"It could last for many years," said mortician Frank Malabed.

He said he preserved the body with injections of formalin every two months during the first year and with monthly washing and occasional injections after that.

He changed the matriarch's gown six times and the casket three times for hygiene reasons.

Although Marcos was temporarily entombed in Hawaii, his family said his body would someday be returned for burial here in his hometown, 385 kilometres north of Manila.

At the Roman Catholic mass before the entombment, Rodolfo Farinas, governor of Ilocos Norte province, said there would be no peace in the northern Marcos

strongholds until the former president could be buried in his homeland.

"They (government) are afraid of the fierce loyalties of the Ilocanos," Farinas said. "Let us stand up. We will show them that we are loyal within the bounds of the law."

"Let us all join hands, let us give them an assurance, show them that nothing will go wrong if the body (of Marcos) is returned here and show them that we can be trusted," he added.

Former National Assembly Speaker Nicanor Yanez, fighting back tears, said the government's refusal to allow mother and son to be buried together was a sign of "vindictiveness and vengeance."

Several elderly women in the crowd wept during the ceremony. Others wore Marcos campaign T-shirts from the 1966 election against Aquino.

Thousands mourn Indian guru's death

NEW DELHI (AP) — Thousands of followers of Indian guru Osho Rajneesh are flocking to his commune to celebrate his spirit's release through death, which aides alleged was caused by poisoning in U.S. jails.

Rajneesh, 58, who advocated free love, died at his headquarters in the city of Poona Friday.

Commune spokesman Swami Chaitanya Kirit said at least 15,000 followers visited the centre Saturday, chanting mantras, meditating and dancing to mark the freeing of his spirit from its earthly manifestation.

"There was too much of a rush," Kirit said in a telephone interview. "They celebrated. They came to hear Osho's last words."

The spokesman said the guru's last message, communicated through his doctor, said he would be always among his followers.

"Never speak of me in the

past tense," Rajneesh said in his last message, according to Kirit. "My presence here will be greater without the presence of my tortured body."

Rajneesh died of a heart attack. But a press statement released Saturday said he died because "living in the body had become a hell," after it was allegedly poisoned when he was in U.S. jails.

"In his final message Osho said that since the days in jail in Charlotte, North Carolina, his body has been deteriorating," the statement, read out to the Associated Press by telephone, said.

"While he was in Oklahoma county jail, he was poisoned with heavy metal thallium. They exposed him to radiation in a way that it (the alleged poisoning) will not leave any proof," the statement said.

"Osho had said he had kept the pain to himself but living in the body had become a hell,"

the statement said.

Rajneesh returned to his native India when he was deported from the United States in 1985, after pleading guilty to violating federal immigration laws by arranging sham marriages.

A U.S. court fined him \$400,000, gave him a 10-year suspended prison sentence and ordered him to leave the country. His once-famous commune in Oregon, the Rancho Rajneesh, was disbanded.

He returned to India but left a month later when the government deported 10 of his aides.

For six months he roamed the world in search of a home, but he was refused entry or permission to linger in 21 countries. In July 1986, he returned to India where he had founded his movement.

He reopened a 2.4-hectare commune in fashionable residential district of Poona to

perpetuate his 23-year-old cult.

Rajneesh, with a full grey beard and hypnotic gaze, drew tens of thousands of seekers to his commune each year, ranging from latter-day hippies to an Indian movie star.

He switched from using the honorific Hindu word for God, "Bhagawan," a year ago in favour of the Buddhist Osho, which means "on whom the heavens shower flowers."

His death has triggered questions on the fate of his commune, which has 500 branches across the globe.

A 15-member group has taken over administration, commune spokesman Kirit said. "Osho never involved directly with the commune's administration or work."

"There are very capable people to take us through. Nothing has changed and nothing will change."

8 COLUMN

Gold digger makes it with lotto

HELENA, Montana (AP) — Katherine Summers mined the hills west of Helena for 30 years, but it was in the Missoula grocery store that she finally struck it rich. The 78-year-old widow is the state's first jackpot winner in the state's first jackpot lottery, sharing a \$3.5 million prize in Saturday's drawing with a Wisconsin man. Summers said she plans to use her \$1.75 million in winnings to do some prospecting for gold in Alaska. She wants to buy a small van and head north for the summer to visit relatives and "pan the beaches at home." Next winter she has her sights set on Australia and New Zealand. Beyond that, Summers is not sure how she will spend the estimated 70,000-a-year after-tax winnings. "What do you do about long-range plans when you're 78 years old?" she asked with a laugh. Summers, from the town of Basin, split the jackpot with Thomas Petzko, 56, a retired sheet-metal worker from Milwaukee.

Four-legged 'houseplants'

DETROIT, Michigan (AP) — Cats are cuddly "houseplants" for the 1990s, according to a feline expert. "It's the urbanisation of America. People live in cities, their time is allocated, people are working. A cat is so much easier to take care of. A cat can be left alone," said Mordcaei Siegal, a member of the feline advisory council at Cornell University's feline health centre and editor of the centre's newly published Guide to Cat Care. "You need a touch of nature in your life. I call them four-legged houseplants," said Siegal, who is on a promotion tour for the Cornell Book of Cats: A Comprehensive Medical Reference for Every Cat and Kitten. The book tackles what Siegal said are the two most common cat-owner complaints — pets that shred furniture and ignore their litter boxes. "They can systematically destroy everything you own," said the editor, who lives in New York City with his wife, three children, dog, and, of course, a cat. Cats became more popular pets than dogs in 1985. Last year, Americans owned 57.9 million cats vs. 50.5 million dogs, according to estimates from the Pet Food Institute, a Washington-based trade association.

Tips to matters of intimacy

NEW YORK (AP) — Sydney Biddle Barrows, the so-called "Mayflower Adam" who was arrested for promoting prostitution, is using her expertise to promote good manners in matters of intimacy. "Mayflower Manners: Etiquette for Consenting Adults," includes advice on how to ask a date about AIDS, whether condoms should be left where they can be seen and when it is OK to make a pass. The 221-page book, written by Barrows and Ellis Weiner and published by Doubleday, also describes how to approach an escort service. "When inquiring as to which young ladies are available for that evening, don't ask crude, 'whaddya got tonight?' she wrote. Instead, she said, clients should wait to be asked what sort of companion they would prefer. Barrows, who ran three escort services, pleaded guilty in July 1985 to a misdemeanor charge of promoting prostitution, and paid a \$5,000 fine. She has been working as a \$10 an-hour dresser at fashion shows and answering telephone at an aerobics studio, according to the newspaper the Daily News.

Global weather

(major world cities)			
	MIN.	MAX.	T. Weather
AMSTERDAM	08	11	32 Cloudy
ATHENS	02	11	32 Cloudy
BARRAN	11	17	52 Cloudy
BANGKOK	17	26	63 Clear
BIRMINGHAM	24	26	75 Clear
BOMBAY	24	26	75 Clear
BUEENOS AIRES	17	22	63 Clear
CARRO	07	16	54 Cloudy
CHICAGO	01	03	34 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	06	07	45 Cloudy
DALLAS	02	05	41 Cloudy
GENOVA	05	08	41 Cloudy
HONG KONG	10	14	50 Clear
STANIS	11	12	51 Clear
LONDON	02	06	45 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	07	15	45 Cloudy
MADRID	00	12	54 Clear
MEXICO	18	24	64 Clear
MONTREAL	02	03	37 Cloudy
MOSCOW	03	08	27 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	14	27	57 Clear
NEW YORK	13	21	55 Partly
PARIS	03	06	42 Clear
ROME	04	14	51 Clear
SYDNEY	20	23	78 Cloudy
TOKYO	00	07	32 Clear
VERNO	00	07	32 Clear